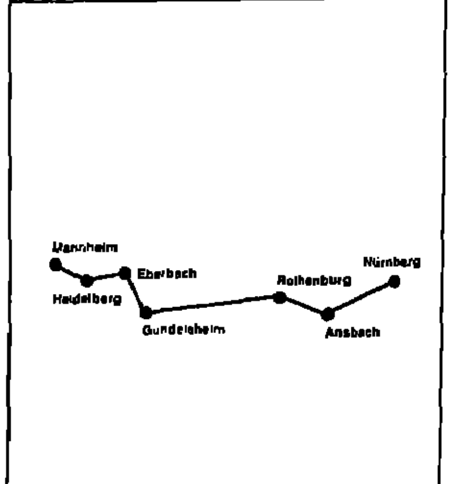
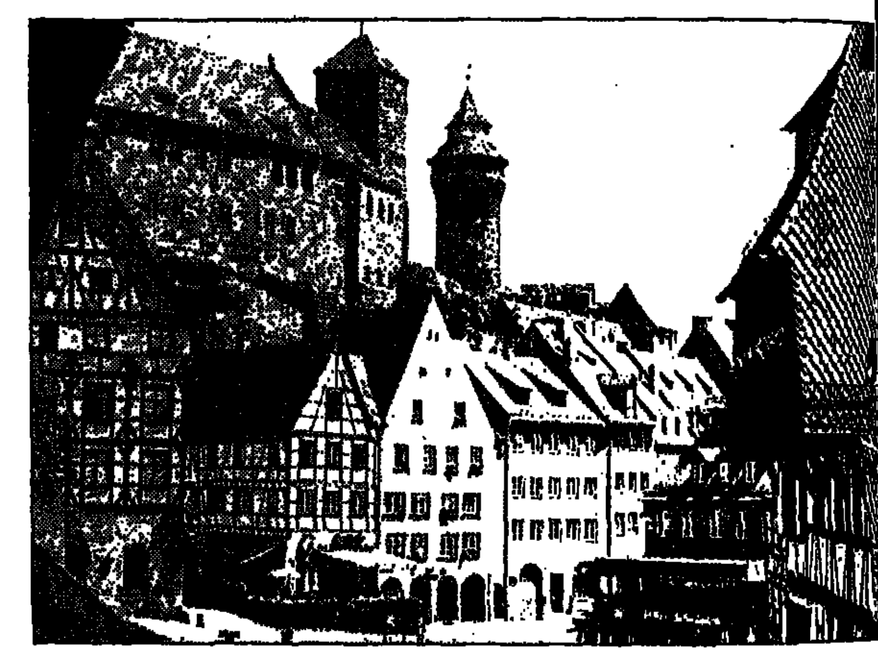
Routes to tour in Germany



The Castle Route





German roads will get you there. But why miss the sights by heading straight down the autobahn at 80? Holiday routes have been arranged not only to ensure unforgettable memories but also to make up an idea for a holiday in itself. How about a tour of German castles?

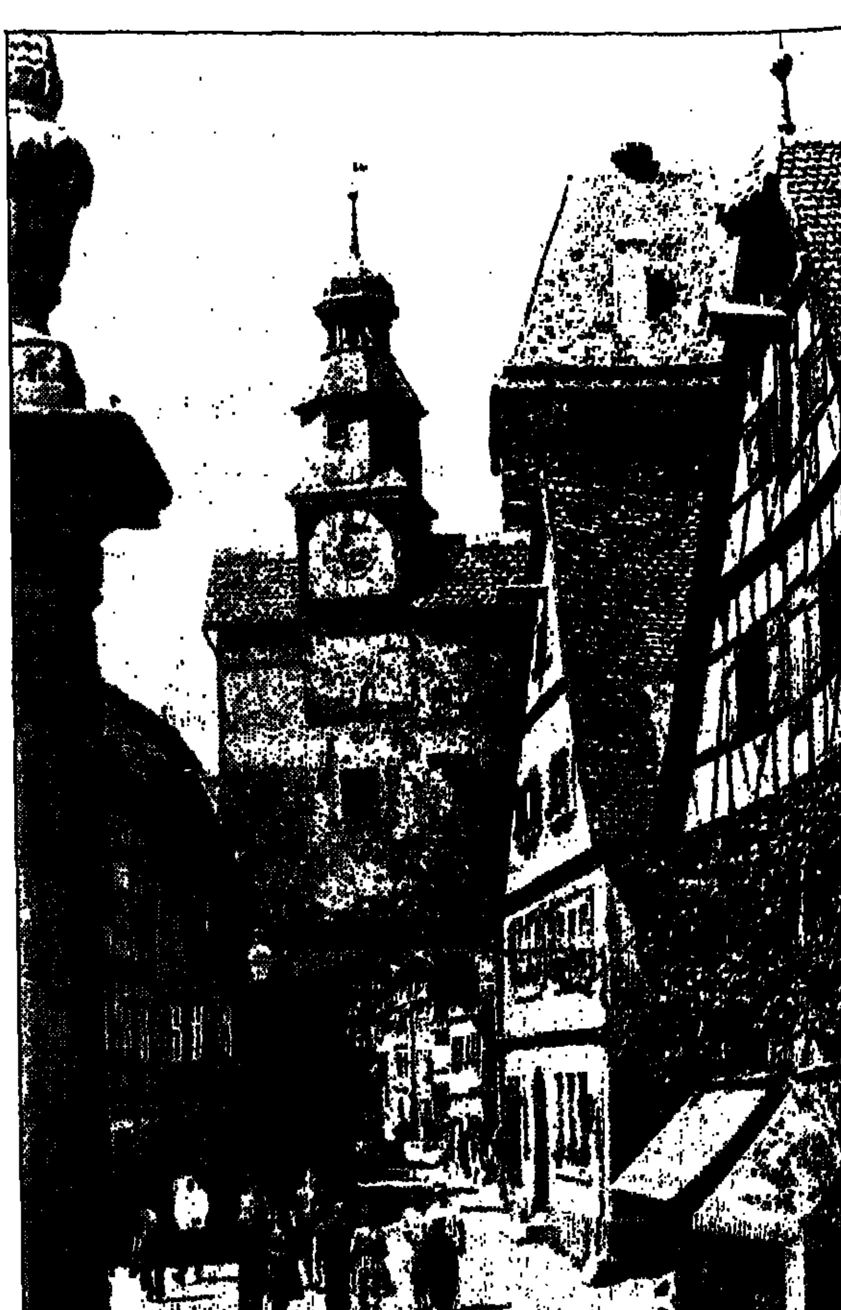
The Castle Route is 200 miles long. It runs from Mannheim, an industrial city on the Rhine with an impressive Baroque castle of its own, to Nuremberg, the capital of Bavarian Franconia. The tour should take you three days or so. We recommend taking a look at 27 castles en route and seeing for yourself what Germany must have looked like in the Middle Ages. The mediaeval town of Rothenburg ob der Tauber is intact and unspoilt. Heidelberg is still the city of the Student Prince. In Nuremberg you really must not miss the Albrecht Dürer House.

Come and see for yourself the German Middle Ages. The Castle Route will be your guide.

1 Gundelsheim/Neckar
2 Heidelberg
3 Nuremberg
4 Rothenburg/Tauber









The German Tribune

Hamburg, 1 April 1984
Twenty-third year - No. 1127 - By air

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EEC summit shows that the system needs changing

Frankfurter Allgemeine

For the second time in four months, an EEC summit has finished in failure. There was no final communiqué at the end of the meeting in Brussels. Nor was there any joint declaration on world affairs.

The stumbling block was agreement over Britain's budget contributions.

Last year, the summit in Athens also ended in notable failure. Brussels was preceded by warnings that another Athens should not be allowed to happen. But it did.

Nine of the 10 EEC leaders blamed British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher for the Brussels failure. She rejected, they said, a generous final offer of a refund on Britain's payments to the EEC.

Heads of government were restrained in their official assessments of what happened. But close associates used stronger language.

They called her pig-headed and said she had acted irresponsibly.

But it would be to misunderstand the condition the European Community is in to infer, as well one might, that were it not for Britain the EEC would be rid of all its trouble and in a position to go ahead unhindered and intensify cooperation.

Bromides of this kind merely serve to paper over the fact that in principle Mrs Thatcher is absolutely right.

She merely has an unfortunate aptitude for advocating a just cause in an inhospitable manner. Not for nothing has she riled all her Common Market partners, even the ones who, without saying too much, have some sympathy with her policy.

It will continue to remain a mystery to many others why, when she was prepared to spend billions to defend the Falklands, which are thousands of miles away and insignificant for the future of Britain, she is adamant on bargaining with neighbouring Europe over a few hundred million.

Yet she is still right in claiming that the Community's system of raising funds is unfair. What she wants is to amend the system and not always to have to bargain over fresh reimbursements.

It is grotesque that only two of the 10 EEC countries are net paymasters and that nearly all the others net a profit, even countries that are much better off than Britain.

There are special reasons why the Federal Republic is so generous in footing more than its fair share of the Brussels bill. For Germany the Common Market is of crucial importance.

Britain takes a cooler and less committed viewpoint. The mistake made this time in Paris in particular was to assume that British opposition could be bought off by refund facilities.

The way in which Common Market countries are handling the fragile European integration package may seem cheerless and depressing.

But there is no reason for the anxiety that has been voiced again about the Community's prestige. The European public have long ceased to show much interest in what goes on in Brussels.

What can you expect when 10 heads of government spend years arguing about payments the connections between which no-one can grasp?

There can be no doubt that the skein of problems that has accumulated over the years must be sorted out before new targets can be decided on

But what is needed is to take up the challenge to Europe posed by America and Japan, and Dr Kissinger's analysis hits the nail on the head of the Old World's weak points.

They are, he says, and endless concern with minor problems and a lack of determination to play an active part in world affairs.

The Brussels failure will not be the end of the European Community. Once the excitement has died down a little there will be a fresh attempt to reach agreement.

Some points from the bulky package have remained on the table, having met

Continued on page 4

IN THIS ISSUE



Luns says goodbye

Nato Secretary General Josef Luns (right) in Bonn with President Karl Carstens and Frau Veronica Carstens. Luns makes way for Lord Peter Carrington, of Britain, in June after 13 years in office. He was visiting Bonn for a round of official farewells.

(Photo: AP)

Greens gain but CDU holds on in State poll

Bremer Nachrichten

The Christian Democrats have been returned in the Baden-Württemberg *Land* election with a reduced absolute majority. Their vote dropped from 53.4 per cent in 1980 to 51.9 per cent. The Social Democrats lost ground slightly with 32.5 per cent (32.4 per cent in 1980). The Greens increased their poll from 5.3 per cent to 8 per cent while the Free Democrats dropped from 8.3 per cent to 7.2 per cent. The result means that Lothar Späth remains as the *Land* Premier.

Baden-Württemberg's astute CDU leader and Prime Minister Lothar Späth has retained his absolute majority in the state assembly elections, but the Greens stole the show.

The ecologist, anti-nuclear Greens emerged as the winners at the polls and firmly established themselves as a political, parliamentary force in the state.

In spite of their disputes and problems they can evidently rely on a voter potential that is no longer at the beck and call of other parties, such as the SPD.

The Greens, now firmly entrenched in the political landscape, have become the catchment basin for the protest potential of mostly young voters who no longer feel represented by the established parties.

A depressing consequence of this realisation for the SPD is that the Social Democrats are no longer the only choice as an Opposition party.

There aren't that many floating voters, but the Greens seem to benefit most from those that do.

The FDP had hoped to consolidate its position in the conservative camp by virtue of its coalition with the CDU/CSU in Bonn and its commitment to a coalition with the CDU in Stuttgart.

These tactics failed to pay dividends. By and large the Christian and Free Democrats shared in Baden-Württemberg the setback the ruling parties in Bonn invariably suffer in mid-term elections.

Herr Späth based his campaign mainly on his personal record, so he suffered less damage. But the Free Democrats derived scant benefit from their coalition with the CDU/CSU in Bonn.

Even in a state that has always been considered a bastion of Liberals the FDP are now only the fourth-largest party.

After their showing in Baden-Württemberg one is bound to wonder how long the Liberals can survive in the Federal Republic with no more than the image of being a businessman's party.

It must be painful for the Social Democrats no longer to be accepted as the sole alternative even though they are in Opposition.

They lost the support of young voters in particular during their term of office in Bonn. The Stuttgart results show they will have a hard time regaining ground.

The SPD certainly has a long march ahead of it. It may inevitably lead to a coalition with the Greens. But for the time being the Social Democrats are marking time.

So Baden-Württemberg voters have had their say, although by no means all of them went to the trouble. Poor turnout certainly influenced the result, but power didn't change hands.

For Chancellor Kohl in Bonn the Baden-Württemberg result provides cover without Herr Späth as a rival Christian Democrat growing too powerful. So the Chancellor can be satisfied with the outcome.

Volker Weise

(Bremer Nachrichten, 26 March 1984)

■ WORLD AFFAIRS

Trying to keep the stopper on the chemical armaments beaker

Christ und Welt
Rheinischer Merkur

Chemicals pose such a serious threat to mankind that any increase in the chemicals arms race must be halted. Steps taken must be verifiable and effective. The balance of chemical weapons must in future be zero-zero.

Credibility of disarmament depends on armaments being visible for verification. This visibility is becoming more and more urgent.

This is what the CDU/CSU Opposition, as it then was, said in February 1981 in one of its parliamentary bids to get the government to act.

Helmut Kohl and the Christian Democrats wanted the Federal government to act even more keenly to ensure the

Christian Democrat Alois Mertes, Minister of State at the Bonn Foreign Office, wrote this article for Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt.

"immediate conclusion of a treaty on an international ban on developing, manufacturing and stockpiling chemical weapons and the destruction of existing stockpiles."

Above all, the Opposition called for reliable and effective international control of any such ban on chemical armaments.

Herr Kohl remains committed to this policy line as Chancellor at the head of the CDU/CSU and FDP coalition government in Bonn.

Bonn thus attaches particularly great importance to the negotiations at the Geneva disamament conference on a worldwide, comprehensive and reliably verifiable ban on the development, manufacture and stockpiling of chemical weapons and the destruction of existing stockpiles and production facilities.

The Federal Republic of Germany is in any case an unconditional party to *the 1925 Geneva agreement banning the* use of chemical weapons in war.

In 1954 it formally renounced the right to manufacture chemical weapons and agreed to international inspection to verify that it stood by this commitment.

Yet it cannot disregard the fact that the Soviet Union and its allies have an enormous potential of chemical weapons that pose a threat to it.

That is why we in the Federal Republic have a vital interest in agreement being reached soon on a total ban on chemical weapons.

Bonn repeatedly boosts the Geneva talks with substantial and practical contributions of its own, especially on the still unsolved and crucial issue of how the observation of a treaty ban is to be reliably verified.

Only recently the Bonn delegation submitted a fresh working paper on the problem of banning the transfer of chemical weapons and permitting that of agreed chemical substances.

Last year the Warsaw pact countries *took part in the Geneva talks on chemical* disarmament without commitment and virtually without contributions of their own.

This year they are showing encouraging signs of willingness to negotiate. In January the Warsaw Pact made a proposal on freeing Europe of chemical weapons.

In February the Soviet declaration at the Geneva disarmament talks on the problem of verifying the destruction of chemical weapons showed that Moscow plans to play a more active part on the subject of chemical disarmament.

Mr Chernenko in a speech in February himself called for verification of the destruction of chemical weapons us part of a demand for a ban on weapons of this kind.

The Bonn government welcomes this development. It will be sounding out the worldwide prospects of the Soviet signals proving useful at the Geneva talks and urging that they be put into practice.

The Geneva talks have made substantial headway. They must now concentrate on issues that are still unresolved, such as verification.

The opportunity of binding international spot checks will need to be provided not only for the destruction of chemical weapons, as indicated by the Soviet Union, but also for other sectors of a treaty ban.

Verification will also be needed to ensure that chemical weapons are not manufactured and to check any instances in which suspicions arise that the treaty is being breached.

The aim of the talks must be an international ban on chemical weapons of all kinds. Bonn, its allies and the neutral and non-aligned countries are in favour of making the entire world free of chemical weapons.

All countries have an equal right to be free from this category of weapons.

Bonn is alarmed by reports that Iraq is using chemical weapons against Iran. If they are true it would be a contravention of the 1925 Geneva agreement to be condemned in the strongest terms.

These reports show how important it is not to limit a comprehensive ban on chemical weapons of all kinds to a specific region, such as Europe or anywhere else. A ban must apply worldwide.

Chancellor Kohl has stressed in Washington how important the Geneva talks on chemical weapons are in the overall context of arms control endeavours.

Bonn has great hopes of the US announcement that America will shortly be submitting a draft treaty on an international chemical weapons ban to the Geneva disarmament conference.

It hopes the US move will lead to a breakthrough in Geneva and bring it closer to a world entirely free of chemical weapons, which is an aim all people embrace.

Alois Mertes

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, 23 March 1984)

A military motive for buildup of Soviet merchant fleet

General-Anzeiger

Vice-Admiral Ansgar Bethge, commander-in-chief of the Bundesmarine, quotes Karl Marx, who wrote in 1855 that the guiding light of Russian policy was a fixed star: world domination.

Admiral Bethge dares not even to think what the world will be like if the trend over the past 20 years continues for the next twenty.

He is referring to the growth of the Red Fleet and the Soviet Merchant navy. The Red ensign is already flying all over the world.

Military observers at the Bonn Defence Ministry are wondering where the Russian bear is heading on the seven seas. They view Soviet maritime expansion with alarm.

The security policy debate has been limited in the missile modernisation context to Central Europe and the land border between Nato and the Warsaw Pact.

At least in the public debate the sea has played little or no part as a factor in the missile deployment discussion, while in the alternative strategy debate only experts are considering the crucial importance of clear shipping routes.

Deterrence is inconceivable, for instance, if trade routes across the North Atlantic are endangered. Conventional reinforcements in Europe would remain a makeshift arrangement unless seaborne logistical support were assured.

Bundesmarine commanders see shipping, and not tanks, as the dynamic feature of subtly planned Soviet imperialism, but this is a fact a wider public persistently fails to appreciate.

The Bonn Defence Ministry has just published details of the explosive growth of the Soviet fleet and merchant marine.

Moscow is not just continuing its expansion of the Red Fleet but also fast expanding the merchant navy.

The merchant navy does not normally come within the Bundesmarine's scope, but operationally speaking it is of major importance.

At the Defence Ministry is is even felt to be more dangerous than what is currently going on in the arms sector in the Red Fleet.

Captain Klaus Mehner sees the merchant navy as the "third pillar of the Soviet claim to maritime power" and "at least equal" to the other two as a threat to the West.

The trend, he says, is planned as a long-term development yet is a threat to the West's vital interests even in peacetime.

Admiral Bethge notes that since 1960 the Soviet merchant navy has progressed from No. 24 to the world's sixth-largest. Moscow is said to be pursuing a ruthless policy of displacing others and bringing about a reduction in the size of Western merchant navies.

The Soviet Union is said by Bundesmarine experts to include warships, fishing vessels, research ships and the merchant navy in its overall military strategy.

Nato and the Western countries do not have such a strategy. The rock-bottom rates charged by Soviet shipping lines are increasingly driving Western operators into the red and making Western Europe dependent on Soviet shipping for supplies.

The more the West abides by free market principles, Captain Mehner says, the easier the Soviet Union will find it to gain access to Western shipping markets by means of political prices.

In 1982 a mere six per cent of goods shipped between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Soviet Union by sea went on board German ships, as against 77 per cent on board Soviet ships.

Roughly 60 per cent of the coffee drunk in the Federal Republic is shipped to German ports on board Soviet freighters.

Without resorting to arms the Soviet Union, says Admiral Wolfgang Brost, is consolidating its influence throughout the world.

It is making the West increasingly dependent in its foreign trade arrangements and limiting its room for manoeuvre in the event of crisis or war.

That, the Defence Ministry argues, is a further variation on the theme of Soviet maritime expansion. Soviet merchant vessels can also be put to military use.

The West is powerless in the face of this form of cut-throat competition. In a planned economy shipbuilding costs can be based on more favourable terms.

The Soviet Union continues to expand its fleet of warships as well as stepping up the expansion of a modern freighter fleet.

The manpower of the Soviet marines in the Baltic has been increased by [illegible] per cent.

Red Army military planning has given priority to the construction of large [illegible] ships, improvements to the fleet air arm, new aircraft carriers and submarines and strengthening of amphibious units and landing task forces.

The Bonn Defence Ministry can readily screen film footage and play soundtracks to illustrate landing manoeuvres that have nothing to do with a defensive strategy.

It has GDR TV film material in which the ability of Soviet troops is praised in rapturous terms.

To prevent misunderstanding in the Bundeswehr, or so one imagines, the original soundtrack is interspersed with Western comments.

One is that the Red Fleet uses water for cooking, jut like everyone else. One can but hope that is some consolation.

Ekkehard Kohn

(General-Anzeiger Bonn, 20 March 1984)

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■ HOME AFFAIRS

The special factors behind municipal elections

Local government elections in Bavaria have resulted in losses of about 4 per cent overall for the Christian Social Union. In Munich, the CSU has lost its absolute majority and the SPD together with the Greens have enough seats in the city assembly to form a majority. There will be another poll for mayor today and if the Greens throw their weight behind the SPD candidate, Georg Kronawitter, who was mayor between 1972 and 1978, he would probably take over from the former mayor, Erich Kiesl. The just completed election was highlighted by a recount of votes. The original count gave the CSU 37 seats, the SPD 36, the Greens 4 and the FDP 3. The recount gave both the CSU and the SPD 35, the Greens 6 and the FDP 4.

Local elections are not the same as state elections. Contrary to the ideas behind the constitution and in opposition to the general view, voting for people and political parties in local, district and municipal elections is different.

This is not explained by material that is available to a greater or a lesser degree in schools in which it is declared that the local authority is the basic cell of the whole democratic process.

Devoid of all the trimmings, the local authority *is* that as well. Voters can see policies in action at a local level, they can see how their own interests are influenced and that has its value in a democratic society. But in the local elections in Bavaria there was more to it than that.

The contradiction today lies in the fact that people live at the local authority level but in the federal *Land* organisation. At this level people come together and it is here that culture emerges. Large cities are the showplaces for middle class civilisation.

There law and criticism thrive. Everything to do with local government comes from *Civitas* as politics comes from *Polis*.

Prophets, insurgents and generals in history came from the countryside. On the other hand freedom, science and the arts thrived in the cities. It is still like that.

Nevertheless it is heartening to see in the last few years a trend back to the cities. The cottage in the country has lost some of its attractions, at least it is no more delight that pulls in about half the population.

So there is much to be done in the cities. Municipal elected representatives cannot complain that they do not have enough to do. They have to plan, to think about renovation, consider priorities, guide traffic flows, plan residential areas, build up local industrial regions and give a meaning to local cultural life.

State assemblies are by comparison almost without anything to do, although well endowed with cash. Representatives of the people gobble up control of the administration so that there is hardly any legislation to be enacted. States have sunk to a kind of provincialism even when they call themselves, as does Bavaria, "Freistaat" or "free state."

Here the high notes are sung but the proud government measures the achievements of the local authority.

Such an administration sits in Ansbach that has to supervise important matters in the city of Nuremberg and the whole Fürth-Erlangen conurbation.

And Munich is placed over the province of Upper Bavaria. If today it were possible to re-construct the states without reference to already established institutions no one in their right mind would think of subjugating cultural and social officials in the provinces.

As with the Upper House in Bonn (Bundesrat) an upper city council would have been set up that would decide local legislation in conjunction with the state government.

The result of all this is that the state administration stipulates in detail to 2,000 Bavarian mayors, 70 state councillors, and 30 chief burgomasters how many stones shall be laid in a predestrian footpath and what is required for a school cloakroom.

In this way electoral control is pushed aside by control from officials, except in the case of the law. The result is ever greater perfection and a fear of reproof.

The mayor of Stuttgart, Manfred Rommel, once said that at local government level it was easier to hinder things than to get anything done. Power makes elected representatives weary and discouraged. Perhaps this state of affairs is why so much protest and calls for reform originates from the town hall. In the 1950s and 1960s things were somewhat different.

In large local governments nothing more is demanded than courage and flair. When mediocrity prevails in the cities it is apparent immediately in civic life, mainly with a paralysing effect. But when citizens become indifferent then the cultural life of the city dies, architecture and landscaping projects lack inspiration, people from the theatre and the arts pack up and leave and the universities lose their attractions.

In the past the connection between the two was concealed by exterior impulses and large batches of investment. This is especially noticeable in Munich.

The Olympic Games and the International Garden Show have not only brought in considerable investment but they have also accelerated renovation projects and given civic imagination wings.

The wellbeing of a city is certainly not dependent on the stature of its mayor. Nevertheless citizens want to have a certain identification with what goes on in the town hall, what stimulation and motivation is given. This is dependent however, on the spiritual interests and intellectual levels of top men and women. They will be in no position to give

Süddeutsche Zeitung

encouragement and make wise decisions if they have no curiosity for things new, perhaps risky building programmes or something very modern in the theatre or cinema.

It is not a matter of money. Local government does not do too badly financially. There are large differences between municipalities; and small towns with good incomes are not necessarily individual in character.

Many local governments have had to cut back drastically in the past few years, without doing so at the expense of their intellectual character.

A quite pleasing, experience has come from this and it is that over the past few years there has been a considerable growth in things intellectual and cultural, particularly among young people — and that citizens are prepared to pay for this as well as participate.

Here and there this has been taken into regard politically, mainly with a critical reaction. Parties and groupings of people, who apart from political wrangling are just mediocre, fare very badly in local elections.

Hans Heigert

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 17 March 1984)

Strauss blames Bonn for drop in CSU's Bavarian vote

Frankfurter Allgemeine

Franz Josef Strauss, the CSU chairman, blames politicians in Bonn for his party's election performance in Bavaria.

Local elections tend to be dismissed as such by politicians, but on this occasion, Herr Strauss has chosen to make an excuse for the party's loss of about four percentage points overall.

It is a significant and embarrassing figure. It indicates that the CSU has not become the party of working people and of large cities.

It might well be true to say that part of the result was because people did indeed take exception to the Bonn government's economy measures and that this was the first chance to pay back those in Bonn.

The results in Bavaria could be an indication of a sense of justice, a feeling for a balance of power with local parties trying to deaden to some extent the party political fighting that is carried on in Bonn.

But the Strauss statements include a thistle for the CSU itself that cannot very well ease aside its chairman. The unstoppable tendency upwards has been broken and it is worthwhile asking a few questions about this.

The identification of the CSU with Bavaria, described so frequently, the establishment of a Bavarian conservative-social and liberal "local" party was perhaps a little premature. It is possible that Bavaria will not be spared from the tendency to a levelled-out worker society.

It is possible that the CSU chairman, with his vaunting ambition, with his unpredictability, with his lack of discrimination, recognises that he himself must bear a part of the blame for the fact that his party, his life's work, has taken a downward turn.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 22 March 1984)

Wide repercussions likely from Munich result

Saarbrücker Zeitung

The Social Democratic Party (SPD) in Bonn has made no bones over its delight at the Bavarian local elections. The pleasure of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) is more clandestine. It could be called *schadenfreude*.

Those who rule in Bonn are delighted that Franz Josef Strauss, the CSU leader, has now been taught a lesson. They are now entitled to accept with ever greater composure than before Strauss' willfulness.

With this election result the SPD now hopes that it will be able to revitalise itself where it has for many years had its political base — in local government.

All political eyes are now on Munich. What happens in here has an emotional element to it that far exceeds any rational assessment.

The unexpected success of SPD candidate Georg Kronawitter could have repercussions extending far beyond Munich. It should be remembered that on the second ballot it was never all that sure that he would eventually be successful.

The victory in Munich means primarily that an SPD politician, Kronawitter, has given the party a new thrust. He is a politician who can be regarded as poles apart from the SPD's left wing that has for many years characterised the Munich SPD. The left wing mismanaged the party and gambled away the mayoral office which Hans-Jochen Vogel once achieved with dream results.

Kronawitter, who for years was left out in the cold by the left and regarded as unacceptable, took on the battle with the Munich left. He led the centre-right wing of the party and once more made of it a party of the people.

His victory shows that the SPD can only win back its former strength in regional government, where the party has for a long time only been able to capture second place, by appealing with greater force for the votes of the middle classes, professional people and other sections of society that were once attracted by Karl Schiller and Helmut Schmidt.

Since Helmut Schmidt's departure from government his adherents have remained silent, but they have not disappeared.

If Hans Apel, who represents this wing of the party, is chosen as SPD candidate in West Berlin, he will have to give leadership to the right wing of the party there and keep down the SPD's left. He can learn some useful lessons from what happened in Munich.

The Bavarian CSU seems to have been pushed to the limit and its existence has been obscured by the desolate position of the Bavarian SPD.

The good performance of the "CSU rebels" in various wards indicates that there is a growing dissatisfactionwith the CSU.

Strauss is responsible in some part for the breakdown of state policies, but an interpretation of this can be confidently left aside, and not only because Elisabeth Noelle-Neumann of the Allensbach Institute says this is untrue. Primarily because nationwide surveys show no negative trend against the CDU is apparent.

Volker Jacobs

(Saarbrücker Zeitung, 21 March 1984)

■ DEFENCE

Maltreatment of soldiers revealed in report

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

Cases of maltreatment of soldiers, including one where electric shock treatment was involved, are included in the annual report by the armed forces commissioner, Karl Wilhelm Berkhan.

He made it clear that, as in the past, training and leadership still leave much to be desired.

Herr Berkhan is a former parliamentary state secretary at the Defence Ministry, so he is unlikely to be hypersensitive about complaints.

But the cases he looked into in painstaking detail because basic rights and the principle of inner leadership were called into question ought not to have happened, not even in an army of 500,000 men.

He refers in general terms to two developments that a society which prides itself on having a democratic army ought to be worried about.

The new Act governing his work as armed forces watchdog that came into force in June 1982 entitled him to hear witnesses and experts himself.

But in interviewing witnesses, he says, he has found that they were franker and went into greater detail with him and his staff than in previous interviews with superior officers.

This may mean the courage of serving members of the armed forces is under-developed in this respect. It certainly indicates that superior officers who come in for criticism are able to get their own back.

Herr Berkhan is also unhappy with the idea that many Bundeswehr officers have difficulty in fairly exercising their disciplinary powers.

"This," he writes, "is particularly apparent from the fact that breaches of duty by higher ranks are, in my view, dealt with much less sternly than comparable offences by lower ranks.

"In a number of cases I looked into, even higher-ranking officers had to be consulted before disciplinary proceedings of any kind were taken against senior officers."

His remarks on life in the Bundeswehr concentrate in the 1983 report on the missile deployment debate inasmuch as it affected the armed forces immediately.

He also deals with problems of leading men and of indiscipline in using arms.

He feels the missile deployment debate did not have a detrimental effect on the Bundeswehr. He is even convinced the public debate has helped to integrate the armed forces in society.

He notes that demonstrations outside Bundeswehr barracks were tolerated by most officers and men because they were part and parcel of democracy.

Soldiers showed less understanding of bids to blockade military property, especially when access was blocked for any length of time.

He is critical, however, of the missile deployment debate as conducted in the Bundeswehr itself.

It was no use warrant officers telling conscripts that opponents of deployment were müsli eaters who had no idea about nuclear weapons.

He also feels that uniform standards were not always applied in comparable cases. Paragraph 15 of the Defence Regulations clearly lays down the extent to which serving members of the armed forces may engage in political activity.

The regulations, Herr Berkhan says, apply regardless whether men are for or against missile deployment. He is also critical of the blunt way in which members of the Bundeswehr deal with each other.

He takes a dim view of a colonel telling a soldier on guard duty that "it's knuckle sandwich for you if that happens again."

Time and again he deals with cases in which officers have fun at the expense of other ranks and violate their rights and dignity.

Anti-freeze is poured into Coke cans. Anti-assault spray is sprayed "for a joke" on to a man's back, causing skin damage. Hair-raising induction rituals are celebrated.

One such ritual is really worth reprinting in full from the report: "During a telecom exercise a number of men were to take part in what was termed a signals baptism. One soldier objected.

"He was tied to posts by his arms and legs in the presence of an NCO and a pole run between them to press his head on the ground.

"Wires were then held to his hands and he was subjected to electric shock treatment by turns of the handle on a field telephone."

Herr Berkhan stresses that very few such cases come to light, and usually alcohol is involved. But he is right in adding that even these few cases discredit the Bundeswehr in the eyes of the general public.

He calls on the Defence Minister to take more effective action against alcohol abuse. He also says even more attention needs to be paid to safety regulations governing the use of firearms.

There is no room in the Bundeswehr for captains who hunt rabbits with a machine gun, for NCOs who take pot shots at barrage balloons used for advertising, or for would-be Western heroes who practise quick drawing of guns.


Commissioner Berkhan . . . Bundeswehr under fire. (Photo: Werek)

Fatalities repeatedly occur. "Society's confidence in the discipline and reliability of the Bundeswehr is lastingly hurt by such goings-one," he writes.

There is nothing new in the complaints he has received from conscripts of being called up or demobilised at times that were inconvenient for their jobs or studies.

If it is true that the Defence Minister gives pride of place to the individual, then Herr Wörner ought to be keeping a closer eye on conscription procedures.

Sten Martenson

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 15 March 1984)

Top ministry change in wake of Kiessling affair

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Two newcomers are taking over senior civil service positions in the Bonn Defence Ministry.

They are Manfred Timmermann and Günter Ermisch, who take over in April as state secretaries for armament and administration respectively.

Herr Timmermann is an economist; his appointment has been vacant for over a year. Herr Ermisch is a senior official transferred from the Interior Ministry to take the place of Joachim Hiehle, who has resigned for health reasons.

The new men will not have an easy job. Political interest will be concentrated initially on Herr Ermisch, whose first task will be to clear up the debris left by the Kiessling Affair.

Herr Hiehle came to grief in connection with the poor performance and dilettante approach of the MAD, or military counter-espionage agency.

He is not the first state secretary to fall foul of ineptitude at MAD. When Social Democrat Georg Leber was Defence Minister his state secretary, Helmut Fingerhut, had to resign for much the same reason.


Defence Minister Manfred Wörner (left) with new state secretaries Manfred Timmermann (right) and Günter Ermisch. (Photo: dpa)

The circumstances in which Herr Hiehle resigned will leave Herr Ermisch in little doubt as to the extent to which his new boss was keen to find a scapegoat. If Herr Ermisch's past career is any guide, Defence Minister Manfred Wörner has chosen a good man for the job. As a head of department at the Interior Ministry he is experienced in managing civil servants.

As a former deputy head of the Bundeskriminalamt, or Federal CID, he also has an idea of how intelligence agencies work (which his predecessor sadly didn't).

This is the sector to which he will need to pay most attention. The MAD requires thorough reform, as each successive revelation of illegal bugging and the like shows.

Less attention seems likely to be paid to the initial performance of his new stablemate, Herr Timmermann, whose job has been vacant since Free Democrat Kurt Jung quit in March 1983.

Herr Wörner had tried hard to find a replacement from the ranks of industrial executives, but managers were attracted neither by the salary nor by the job.

Herr Timmermann's work will consist of striking a balance between military demands, the growing shortage of cash and pressure from the arms industry.

A number of well-known figures turned the job down, but Herr Timmermann says that doesn't worry him.

He is reported in Bonn not to have had much to do with arms industry executives, but he had a wide range of skills from scientific and industrial work. He will need them.

The Ministry will soon have to decide on how to modernise virtually all the Bundeswehr's armament, and with it the shape and structure of the armed forces until the end of the century and beyond.

Kurt Kister

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 21 March 1984)

Continued from page 1

with general approval. The basic features of a new financial system are also apparent, although more work needs to be done on it.

The Nine will have to grow used to the idea of living with Britain. Ideas of a Europe with an integration policy of its own are unrealistic in 1984.

Even without Britain no member-country is really prepared to renounce its sovereignty. Dreams of integration ought to be set aside in favour of genuine cooperation.

Heinz Stadlmann

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 22 March 1984)



■ PERSPECTIVE

A changing society is reflected in the changing nature of work

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Between 1974 and 1982 more than a million industrial jobs disappeared. Of these, almost 250,000 jobs were lost in the building trades and 50,000 in the wholesale trade.

New jobs replaced some of them: 460,000 in the service trades, 275,000 in the health sector, 155,000 in catering, 61,000 in the churches and other charity organisations and 58,000 in the public sector.

These changes, and the overall decline in the number of jobs, were dramatically apparent because young people born in high birth-rate years increased the number of people competing for fewer jobs.

The overriding change, one that has often been forecast, certainly seems to be a transition from a manufacturing to a service society.

This change is reflected in industrial orders. There are no worries in office and data technology, where brisk expansion continues.

In the doldrums

The same goes for plastics and chemicals and motor manufacturers. But steel and engineering are still in the doldrums and no-one can tell whether they will ever recover.

Basic industries used to be the country's economic mainstay. Their place is increasingly being taken by the so-called intelligent industries.

Trade union membership statistics are a further reflection of the trend. In spite of the influx of young people on to the job market 14 of the 17 industrial unions affiliated to the DGB have lost members.

They lost 100,000 (out of nearly 8m) last year. IG Metall membership has declined by 160,00 in the past three years.

Union head offices attribute the decline to rationalisation and unemployment, but the true reasons are more deep-seated.

Not only jobs themselves are in a state of flux. People are starting work years later than they used to, and as retirement is steadily brought forward, working lives have already been reduced substantially.

People used to retire at 65. Retirement at 65 for men will soon be the exception, not the rule. In 1982 only 12 per cent of new pensioners were 65 or over; the remainder were younger.

People also have more spare time during their working lives. Ten or 20 years ago job satisfaction was considerable; the percentage is plummeting these days.

People concentrate more on their spare time than on their jobs. Work has become an irksome interruption of long weekends.

There is no point in taking a moral view and clamouring for hard work and performance. Appeals are no use. The situation is more complex.

Figures can be found to support any assumption, but forecasting is still problematic. That makes the findings of a survey commissioned by Baden-Württemberg particularly welcome.

Twenty-one social scientists were asked to review the prospects of social trends. They analysed the material available and took a critical look at changing values and the country's capacity for innovation and change.

Will the democratic system be capable of coping with change-related crises? The commission cannot be said to sound a pessimistic note.

The democratic system still enjoys widespread political support and can be expected to retain it provided change doesn't just lead to dead ends.

Much will depend on the agreements reached on working hours (or lives) — both in the Bundestag and by the parties to collective bargaining.

Greater flexibility is universally demanded, both for the individual and for companies. But trade unions for one are stalling; their raison d'être compels them to aim at uniformity.

The unions generally tolerate special arrangements only when they see them as an opportunity of arriving at new norms. They oppose them when fragmentation and variety threaten.

Employers are unhappy when companies break ranks too. The same is true of professional organisations and political parties.

The change is a powerful challenge to the parties in particular, but they are increasingly recruiting office-holders on the basis of party unity and "combat capacity."

Party leaders and their staff, the Stuttgart commission says, are the country's coordinating centre for manpower and policy decisions. They thus pose far-reaching problems with regard to legitimation.

That is a provocative state of affairs. The major parties are clearly still capable of mobilising a wide range of democratic opinion, but they will obviously not want to upset their regular voters.

Prospects of change invariably entail risks. More flexibility means a greater opening of the social system and calling into question of accrued rights.

When times are normal people are more conservative in outlook and prefer linear progress with as little challenge as possible.

A sense of change and readiness for reform are only periodic.

Change of view

This groundswell has reappeared, but parties no longer seem able to think in terms of perspective, which is why voters have deserted in droves to the Greens and Alternatives.

They are sure to return, given the Greens' evident inability to integrate and lack of plausibility. But which way will the pendulum swing?

No-one will be able to say it all came as a surprise and took us unawares. We are aware of the facts and likely trends. Experts have outlined them in detail.

So have Ministry officials even, but less so political parties either in Bonn or in the country.

This contradiction between their claim to leadership and ability to provide it has assumed alarming proportions.

Hans Heigert

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 10 March 1984)

Institute sets out to make some social points

Frankfurter Allgemeine

The Max Planck Society is to set up an institute to analyse the work of political parties and organisations, public sector authorities, private sector companies, families, schools, and universities.

The aim is to underpin social science theory. The new institute's first head will be Cologne sociologist Renate Mayntz. A second appointment has yet to be settled.

Given past experience of social science research facilities, it is a courageous decision by the Max Planck Society.

The Max Planck Institute in Starnberg, Bavaria, set up to look into living conditions in the scientific and technological world was shut down four years ago after long disputes.

The Max Planck Educational Research Institute in West Berlin has been thoroughly reshuffled since the retirement of its longstanding director.

Differences there may have been in detail, but both institutes came to grief on the borderline between knowledge and power.

The Starnberg research scientists prompted with a number of lines of thought suspicions of being more concerned with politics than with research. The bold recommendations made in Berlin virtually confirmed these suspicions.

Knowledge is power, as has been known since Bacon's days. So the idea is neither new nor alarming. But there is a difference between being briefed on goings-on in outer space and on what goes on in everyday life.

The social sciences have been defined as serving man's understanding of himself and his social surroundings. It is thus an understanding that exists in some form before being subjected to scientific scrutiny.

Unlike the natural sciences, social science does not convey something entirely new. It merely casts what is already known in a different light.

Applied to man himself and his social surroundings, the power of knowledge takes on uncommonly burdensome importance.

"What ought to have enriched our knowledge of human reality," Friedrich Tenbruck writes, "has claimed to be the only fundamental science of reality."

Graver risks

Social science runs a graver risk than other disciplines of crossing the border between education and tutelage.

Its value has always been called into question, arguably proving how difficult it still is to draw a distinction between the lectern in the lecture theatre, the pulpit in the church and the platform of political debate.

Sociology still has difficulty in determining the point at which the thinking research scientist ends and the individual's volition begins.

Max Weber made the point that consequences could arise from the choice of procedure, regardless of the results arrived at.

When valid standards were subjected to empirical examination, he wrote, they ceased to be valid. They were "existing" rather than "valid."

These words of warning have been amply reaffirmed by the many surveys of changing social standards, latterly by DFG research scientists who soberly stated that values and standards were social facts described by means of empirical statement.

This very definition is a social fact. By describing the object of which an understanding is to be gained it forms and changes it.

It treats valid standards as "existing" rather than "valid". Scientists appreciate that reference to reality cannot be made without affecting reality.

They have long abandoned their naive confidence that they will be able to keep subject and object, matter and observer apart whatever happens.

Since the days of Niels Bohr they have felt that the research scientist, like anyone else, is both an actor and a spectator in the drama that is life.

This realisation is evidently slow to gain ground among social scientists. Consciously or unconsciously they go about their work hoping to discover the whole truth, unmarred by subjectivity, and to make it the yardstick of public awareness.

Only recently Frau Noelle-Neumann of the Allensbach opinion poll said she hoped sociologists would arrive at findings making it essential to part company with many assumptions that still prevail in the educational system.

Traces of the belief that social facts can be caught, pinned and examined like butterflies are apparent even in the views of the scientists who have planned to launch the new Max Planck institute.

Its purpose is to examine institutions of which values and standards form the nucleus. That again raises the issue of the social policy consequences of social science research.

Reality is not just ascertained but also established. Much will depend on whether social scientists view the political perspective as a hope or as a risk to be avoided.

This issued proved crucial for the activity, success and fate of the Max Planck institutes in Starnberg and Berlin.

Konrad Adam

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 19 March 1984)

■ SOCIAL WELFARE

Bonn allocates cash for needy pregnant women

Hannoversche Allgemeine

The Bonn government has set aside 50 million marks to help pregnant women who face economic hardship. The money is to be used for abortions in only exceptional cases.

Health and Family Affairs Minister Heiner Geissler tends to become a little offended if anyone looks too critically at his idea.

At first sight it does seem unfair that he doesn't get unlimited praise for helping pregnant women in distress.

But the truth of the matter is that in practice the programme will change very little.

If what Geissler says is a fact that annually between 15,000 and 20,000 women need a grant, then on average they will get between DM2,000 and DM3,000 each.

This is not likely to be enough to deter a woman from having an abortion if she is desperate.

Surveys have shown that the typical woman who is considering having an abortion is young, without education or a job and without a stable relationship.

Her living conditions will not be changed very much by the sum proposed when it is just a one-off grant.

But it is not only pregnant women that have difficulties. Many families that lack the material things of life.

Family policies are the thing of the moment. Hardly a day passes that someone does not come up with a smart suggestion how to help parents and children.

It is a fact, however, that parents with children are continuously penalised. They get no part of the DM50 million that Geissler has obtained from the Finance Minister for his programme.

The rot set in with the SPD-FDP government and this coalition is continuing it. The government has radically limited the further education support programme, halved the tax-exempt allowance for schooling, cut back on the payments made to pregnant women on leave from work and partly done away with allowances for child care.

The disadvantaged

It is possible to discuss at length if these steps were necessary and in accordance with our social system in view of the budget situation.

But adding them all up together they considerably disadvantage families that are urgently in need of assistance, particularly young marrieds who would like to have children, who are just beginning their married life and are at the start of their professional careers. But the state and society continually hammers them.

The West German Catholic Families Association has produced figures that show a man who is the sole breadwinner with two children and earning on average DM2,700 is close to the limit where public assistance would be paid.

But there is another aspect of this development that can be considered. When the birth rate is dropping so drastically as it is is it not reasonable to expect that these aids to the family should survive?

The state is trying to save money that it will soon not have to pay out in any event, adjusting the budget in this way or allocating the sums saved elsewhere.

Or, because of the drop in births there will be fewer children in school and kindergarten. But it does not follow from this that the numbers in a kindergarten group or in a class room will decline in numbers as is urgently required from an educational point of view. These funds are diverted elsewhere.

These facts stand in astonishing contrast to the continuous protestations made by politicians of all hues, who wish to make West Germany once more a country where children are loved and cherished. In such a country an improvement of the material situation of individual families should be an imperative.

Those who believe that the state has a responsibility towards children must think about items such as play grounds and homes that take into consideration the child. They must introduce traffic conditions that do not turn children into hunted hares, and they must ensure that a woman can work and yet be a mother more easily than is possible at the moment.



Family and Health Minister Heiner Geissler... 'programme will change little' (Photo: Werek)

For a woman to have a child today means all too often she has to give up work or that she is totally over-worked.

The Minister, an experienced leader in social policies, never gets tired of trying out new possibilities to help families with children.

He can relieve a few urgent cases with his DM50 million. But if he does not find ways to translate the pretensions of this coalition into reality, he will not have achieved very much.

Rudolf Grosskopff

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 12 March 1984)

Distress fund is 'no substitute for a policy'

STUTTGARTER NACHRICHTEN

Family Affairs and Health Minister Heiner Geissler's DM50 million plan to help pregnant women in financial distress is helpful and appropriate.

The government programme "Mother and Child — Protection for unborn Life" offers new possibilities, and it is to be welcomed that central government is not proposing to set up a new bureaucracy to handle the money.

Other organisations and charities will distribute the cash.

No one should overlook the fact that the government programme alone is no substitute for official policies designed to help child and family. Children cost more than DM5,000, which is what the new programme will probably allocate per head.

More assistance must be offered to young people when they need it.

That should be borne in mind when in the future the discussion turns to whether tax cuts should be introduced or whether creative policies for family life should be pursued. *Heinz-Peter Finke*

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 9 March 1984)

Government money helps open up new career opportunities for girls

DEUTSCHES ALLGEMEINES SONNTAGSBLATT

Almut has completed her apprenticeship as a fitter.

In the campaign to encourage women to take on jobs that used to be regarded as exclusively for the male — mainly work of a technical kind — she dared to have a go in a sector that has been traditionally reserved for men.

She only laughs now at problems she faced such as not being able to get her fingernails clean — and people talking about the fact.

Almut, who one day wants to start a family, never thought for one moment that her technical gifts coupled with a facility to work with her hands could be put to use in a job.

It did not seem the kind of work women were cut out for.

Up until 1982 more than a half of all girls looking for training regarded hairdressing, being an assistant to a doctor or nursing as the dream job. And 68 per cent of all girl trainees were being given instruction in only 28 different kinds of work regarded as suitable for girls.

Almut considered the Labour Exchange's suggestion that she should train to be a machine fitter for a long time. She pointed out that "I am not a woman's rights fanatic who wants to battle with men for their jobs." The decisive factor for her was the good opportunities for work in the future she could see would be open to her when she was trained for the job.

Training for girls in more than 200 men's jobs is available in the test project operating in all the federal states and supported by the Ministry for Youth, Family and Health Affairs along with Common Market funds under the "Woman and Society" programme.

The declared aim of the test project in a report produced by the Bonn department dealing with policies for women was "to expand the range of jobs that women could apply for, to do something about female exploitation and underqualification and to tone down the lines that mark out male jobs from female occupations."

The firms who expressed a willingness to open up men's jobs to women within the context of the test project did not do so because they wanted to further equal opportunities legislation.

A survey of the firms that took part showed that the idea of "meeting a social obligation" came well down their list of reasons. A frequently expressed opinion went along the lines "In the future their will be a lack of people in various job categories in the firm, that can be met with a reserve pool of trained women."

Financial encouragement from the central and state governments played a part in interesting companies in the test project along with the hint that women had a good output.

And the firms that participated struck it lucky. The number of women who fell by the wayside during the training period was 35 per cent lower than the figure thrown up among men.

The women had better marks in their certificates than the male apprentices and after initial problems getting into the swing of things, problems they had a greater job involvement than the male apprentices, had a greater feel for responsibility and exhibited greater interest.

The sad awakening, however, is also to come now, when the test project with its heartening results comes to an end. Quite unexpectedly many women will find themselves hanging over the oven as ever, instead of standing over a lathe, for despite good qualification and the best efforts of the labour exchange there are not enough companies prepared to take on female machine fitters or lathe operators.

Males preferred

Male applicants for a job were preferred even when they had poor qualifications. And in the main when women were offered a job they were given poor pay and asked to do work that did not require any skills.

"The foreman suddenly has a fear that you will become pregnant, cause trouble or they are as always on the men's side," Almut complained.

Many foremen call up long out-dated job protection measures or they argue that they do not have a women's shower.

"This is a factor to claim exemption that is now frequently called forth," a well-informed women's representative from the metal workers' union, *IG Metall* said.

And ironically she added: "We have built up a technically trained and well-qualified reserve army. Where does it operate? In the kitchen and the children's rooms." *Irmela Körner*

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 11 March 1984)

■ WORLD BUSINESS

Emerging dominance of Pacific Basin leaves Europe floundering

Christ und Welt Rheinischer Merkur

The focus of the world's economy and of international politics is shifting inexorably to the Pacific region.

The Mediterranean is the sea of the past, the Atlantic the ocean of the present and the Pacific the ocean of the future.

More than half the world's population lives round the Pacific Basin. And that is where world trade is concentrated.

Headed by the two industrial superpowers USA and Japan, the Pacific Basin is developing not only into an economic hub but also into a focal point in political and strategic terms, say the forecasters of a Pacific Age.

They point to the fact that three of the nations bordering it, the USA, the USSR and China, are nuclear powers.

The victim of this shift in weight would be Europe. The growing importance of the Pacific Basin puts the hitherto dominant continent on the periphery.

And the end of Eurocentrism, the traditional feeling of European superiority, is in the offing.

Western Europe is incomparably harder hit than North America and the Soviet Union, both of which are Atlantic and Pacific oriented.

The USA, a nation bordering two oceans, and the USSR, a Eurasian power, will experience this shift of weight within their own spheres. Western Europe, on the other hand, will be unable to offset the shift of the economic and political focus from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

It can neither stem this change nor can it ignore it. It is at its mercy and will have to face the challenge, economically, politically and geostrategically where the emphasis will also shift from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

For Germany, the second largest export power after the USA and neck-and-neck with Japan, the number three exporter, the Pacific challenge has become a crucial problem.

But West Germans have hesitated to accept the fact. They keep staring at the crisis within the European Community as if there were no acid test ahead for the EEC on a global scale.

The values that developed during the affluence of the 1960s and 1970s and that no longer include such concepts as performance, responsibility and willingness to take risks have become sacred cows. What matters is vacation and leisure time.

The trade unions doggedly pursue their demand for a 35-hour work week in the misguided belief that they can obtain ever more pay for ever less work.

Suicidal social security burdens go hand-in-hand with an emotional anti-technology mood in large segments of the population and a timid shirking of risks in a sapped and daunted Europe.

All this is in stark contrast to the economic dynamism, innovativeness, vitality and self confidence in the Pacific region. Europe could well fall far behind technologically and lose its global economic and political weight.

In a speech last December, Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher told the Federation of Employers that the United States and Japan were engaged in a gigantic race towards a new era.

Anybody falling behind in high-tech and biotechnology would run the risk of being out of all races, he said.

The Federal Republic of Germany and Western Europe as a whole, he told the meeting, could only maintain and increase their affluence if they were part of the "third industrial revolution" emanating from America and Japan. And this cannot be achieved without a spiritual new beginning, the minister said.

His warning coincided with a colloquium organised by the Foreign Ministry and attended by scientists, businessmen and senior government officials. The meeting presented a dramatic though accurate picture of the Pacific situation.

It was exactly such a spirit of new beginning carried by broad national consensus that turned Japan into a major industrial and trading power which now accounts for more than ten per cent of the global GNP, outstripping the Federal Republic of Germany.

One of Japan's success recipes (though hardly applicable to other industrial nations) is its group mentality with workers staying with the same company throughout their lives.

Today's Japan knows no cultural pessimism, no option out, no nihilism and no entrepreneurial scepticism.

A country extremely poor in raw materials, Japan has staked its affluence on massive export drives.

Boom countries

The Japanese set the pace for growth in East and South East Asia. This applies particularly to threshold countries like South Korea where a computer-controlled shipyards builds mammoth ships and oil rigs.

But South Korea has one-sidedly promoted heavy industry and now lacks the broad basis of small and medium enterprises.

Singapore and Hongkong have also had enormous growth rates and have joined the group of new industrial states.

So has Taiwan whose free market economy, carried by the inventiveness and the business sense of its population of 18 million, has achieved a higher export quota than mainland China with its population of one billion. The centrally planned Communist economic system has stifled growth in the People's Republic.

South East Asia's Asean grouping is also looking forward to a prosperous year. The commodity-rich six-country region (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Singapore and Brunei) is entirely export oriented and derives most of its livelihood from foreign trade.

But trade within the region is stagnant, unlike trade within the European Community which has had a trade agreement with Asean group since 1980, largely due to Genscher's initiative.

Economic and social developments in Asean vary from country to country, making it difficult to forecast the group's role as a stability factor in Southeast Asia.

Indonesia, with its more than 150 million people, is the world's fifth largest country. It has not yet achieved the status of a threshold country despite its oil deposits.

The Philippines is the black sheep of the region because of its political instability. It's GNP is likely to shrink.

The People's Republic of China is a major power though not yet a superpower in the Pacific region.

But the world's most populous nation is developing into a market of unpredictable size.

Economic and strategic considerations have led to a West orientation of China whose policy is still dominated by its hostility to the Soviet Union.

Peking's claim of "equidistance from Moscow and Washington" in no way changes the fact that it is closer to the USA than to Moscow both in terms of its foreign policy and in its bid to participate in America's technology.

Containing Russia

China which, after close to a century of enmity, entered into a friendship treaty with Japan in 1978 has evolved a close web of consultations with Japan as a preliminary between the two countries.

The formula China-Japan-USA is developing into a Pacific axis designed to contain the Soviet empire's Pacific power bid.

Moscow's arms buildup in the Far East is seen as a direct threat by China and Japan and — due to the spread of the rocket carrying Red Navy — by the United States as well.

The military ties between Moscow and Hanoi have turned Vietnam into the spearhead of Soviet expansionism in South East Asia — one more reason for China to fear encirclement by the Soviet Union.

Oceania is frequently overlooked as part of the Pacific scenario. It includes not only Australia and New Zealand but also the South Pacific islands with their many mini states.

Australia's foreign trade has increasingly shifted its emphasis to the Pacific countries of East Asia. But mineral-rich Australia is also gaining in importance as an exporter to the increasingly raw materials hungry USA and the EEC region.

The Anzus Pact, between Australia, New Zealand and the United States in 1951, is aimed at safeguarding the South Pacific from Soviet expansionism. The current situation has greatly increased the importance of the pact.

Oceans not only separate. They also link as modern transport technology helps overcome distance.

Major disputes of our era revolve around oceans. The Pacific, the Far East and the Indian Ocean are increasingly developing into a zone that exerts a political, economic and strategic attraction on the USA, the world power on two oceans.

American trade with Japan outstrip-

Continued on page 8



■ INDUSTRY

EEC crisis management gives steel an artificially healthy look

Hannoversche Allgemeine

If stockmarket prices were anything to go by, Germany's steel industry would be doing a lot better than in the past few years.

Popular steel shares like Thyssen, Hoesch, Krupp-Stahl and Klöckner have risen markedly. Hoesch has tripled within a year.

But hopes based on stockmarket performance would be premature. It is unlikely that any of the steel companies will perform well enough to pay a dividend this year. The earliest this could happen would be 1985, and even this is doubtful.

Still, the steel industry is starting to get back on its feet, though the process will take a lot of time and energy.

It should not be overlooked that the turn for the better is essentially due to the EEC Commission's crisis management.

At the moment, no French, Belgian or German steel mill can freely decide what its total output is to be and how much of this it will produce in each category of steel. This is strictly regulated by the Brussels quota system.

The EEC Commisson has also instructed the individual countries of the Community to cut their production capacities for the sake of competitiveness.

This process is to be completed next year. National governments will then no longer be permitted to subsidise individual companies.

This artificial control over the steel companies became even more watertight last year. In the second half of 1983, when the fuses blew and steel prices went into a tailspin, the EEC pulled the emergency brake.

As part of this action, all steel shipments must, as of the beginning of this year, be accompanied by special papers. They enable customs officers to tell exactly where the shipments come from, what price they were sold for and what category they fall in. The newly introduced "steel visa" for exports still has its loopholes but they are bound to be plugged.

Moreover, steel exporters must now post a bond that is forfeited if they undercut the official prices. To put it in a nutshell, the centrally planned bureaucratic control system for the European steel market is unmatched.

Germany has come up with a rescue programme worth DM3bn to put its steel industry back on its feet.

DM1.8bn has been earmarked for severance pay and other costs of shutting down unprofitable plants. The other DM1.2bn is to subsidise investments.

There is of course a dispute as to how much each company is to get out of this bonanza. Thyssen, for instance, claims that its share relative to size is too small. But all are agreed that the federal and state subsidies are far from enough to cover the costs arising from the rescue plan.

These national subsidies are the reason why the outsider Klöckner company is prepared to accept the production quotas as a condition to benefit from the public largesse.

But Klöckner has not yet met all conditions and though the company itself is optimistic, the optimism is not shared by others.

The market has also played a role in this upturn. Since last autumn, orders and output hve been pointing upward.

Germany produced 35.8 million tons of steel last year although the first three quarters of the year indicated that the output would not exceed 30 million tons.

This year's production is expected to rise to more than 37 million tons due to increased consumption as a result of the economic recovery, restocking of depleted inventories and a drop in imports.

Optimists expect next year's output to rise to about 40 millions tons.

But this is no more than a hope. And those who regard an annual output of 40 million tons as a minor sensation should be reminded that the record 1974 output was around 53 million tons.

Global steel production between 1950 and 1973 rose by an average 5.8 per cent a year, outstripping the 5.3 per cent growth in the global GNP. But from 1973 to 1982 the annual steel growth was only 0.1 per cent against a 2.6 per cent growth in the global GNP.

Experts therefore figure that the GNP must rise at least 2.6 per cent before steel consumption even starts growing.

One of the main disappointments last year was the breakdown of cooperation talks between German steel companies.

The report presented by a panel of three government-appointed experts on the envisaged merger of Thyssen and Krupp to form what was dubbed the "Rhine Group" and Hoesch, Klöckner and Peine-Salzgitter to form the "Ruhr Group" has had to be shelved for the time being. The mergers would have resulted in annual savings of at least DM3bn.

The German steel industry is still to arrive at a blueprint for the 21st century and so far there is nothing to beat the proposals made by the panel.

Hans Overberg

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 10 March 1984)

Foreign orders give chemicals a welcome boost

Germany's chemical industry is growing again after several years of stagnation, says the National Federation of Chemical Industry Employers.

Production last year was up 6.8 per cent after declining 3.3 per cent in 1981 and 0.3 per cent in 1982.

Sales rose 8.7 per cent to almost DM154bn in 1983. And employment is increasing.

The industry says the improvement is because foreign orders are increasing, especially from the dollar region. Foreign sales as a whole rose 9.6 per cent as against "only" somewhat over eight per cent for domestic sales.

The minimal (0.2 per cent) rise in producer prices is seen by the industry as being due to stiff competition.

The actual annual working hours put in by chemical workers rose for the first time in years (from 1,670 to 1,683 hours per worker).

While the work force was down 1.8 per cent to about 548,000, some regions and sectors of the industry are already boosting their work forces, says a spokesman.

The upward trend in the industry is shown clearly by net profits on sales. After dropping to 1.3 per cent in 1982, profits improved markedly last year as the industry worked nearer to capacity. Productivity per worker rose 8.8 per cent.

Last year's net profits on sales (1.9 per cent) were still very low by international standards, industry spokesmen say, pointing to the American industry's six per cent net annual profit.

But the German industry need not fear American competition on world markets. Granted, with its 25 per cent world market share, America is the largest chemicals producer by far; but its export rate is only 10.5 per cent due to the vast domestic market and the high dollar exchange rate.

Germany's chemical industry, on the other hand, exports about half of its total output.

America's chemical industry chalked up a seven per cent rise in sales last year (to $199bn), ushering in a strong growth trend.

Inge Adham

(Die Welt, 6 March 1984)

Continued from page 7

ped its trade with Western Europe in the mid-1970s. US exports to the Asean countries alone now equal those to the Federal Republic of Germany.

America is increasingly relying on the Pacific Basin for its mineral raw materials.

And within the United States itself this shift is reflected in a domestic industrial shift from the Atlantic north east to the Sun Belt of the southwest, making California a leader in high tech.

The same applies to Canada and the Pacific orientation of Latin America where the West Coast is engaged in stiff competition with the East Coast.

The more strained its relations with Europe, the easier it will be for the United States to put the emphasis on Pacific options.

In a recent speech, Assistant Secretary Lawrence Eagleburger, number three at the US State Department, said that Western Europe was so concerned with its own problems as to make it increasingly difficult to induce it to cast a glance beyond its frontiers.

Wolfgang Höpker

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, 16 March 1984)

■ MOTORING

Gottlieb Daimler, inspiration behind a revolution



For millions of people all over the world motorisation is the mainstay of their lives. They owe it to the motor car, arguably the invention that has had the most effect in the age of technology.

The early days of the horseless carriage are inseparably linked with the names of Nikolaus Otto, Carl Benz and Gottlieb Daimler.

Daimler, born 150 years ago, was the first to pave the way for an innovation that was to revolutionise the world of transport.

He showed signs of unusual talent at draughtsmanship and technology as a boy and went on to study at what is now the University of Technology in Stuttgart.

He was fascinated by an idea he felt it was his mission to put into practice, to "come by an engine," as Cheverton had put it in Britain in 1826, "that is always ready to work, loses no time by requiring preparation and can be run at no great expense."

His task was to design a lightweight, compact engine with as high a rev count as possible and powered not by steam — that is, water — but by gas, and not gas from a gasworks but from a liquid fuel based on petroleum.

Daimler went to Paris in 1860, where a man by the name of Lenoir had invented a similar engine that was the first in the history of motor manufacturing to be manufactured on an industrial basis.

But Lenoir's engine failed to live up to expectations, although it gave a crucial stimulus to future developments. Less and less was heard of it as time went by.

Daimler spent time in England adding to his practical know-how in mechanical engineering.

He worked hard wherever he went, gaining a thorough knowledge of English. He already spoke French and had learnt Latin at school.

Learning was what mattered, he always said. Back home in Germany he made the acquaintance of Wilhelm Maybach, a technician 12 years his junior who was no less brilliant.

They both worked for a while for a mechanical engineering company in Karlsruhe and a gas motor factory in Deutz, Cologne, for which he even travelled to Russia to sound out sales prospects.

Then he felt the time had come to set up in business on his own.

It was 1882. What did Daimler do? He opened a workshop in an outhouse in Cannstadt, Stuttgart, where one experiment succeeded another, to the accompaniment of hammering and filing.

A year later more was known about what Daimler had in mind. He unveiled a cycle that no longer needed pedal power, a horseless carriage, and self-propelling boats that plied the River Neckar.

The innovation was that Daimler's engines were mobile. Lenoir in Paris and his previous employer in Deutz had used a stationary engine.

Daimler's principle was the compact, self-powered engine that wasn't stationary.

The first fast petrol engine "for use in vehicles of all kinds," to quote the patent dated 16 December 1883, had a horizontal cylinder with a diameter of 70mm and a stroke of 120mm, an exposed fly-wheel and spark plug ignition.

It was capable of reaching rev counts of between 450 and 900rpm.

Daimler did not live to see the impressive success that crowned his work, the design and manufacture of the Mercedes car. He died on 6 March 1900.

Wolfgang Hocke

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 14 March 1984)

Despite the similarity of dress, it is easy to pick out the figure of Gottlieb Daimler in each of these photos. Top left, Daimler motorised carriage, 1886; top right, Daimler-engined motor boat, 1886; below left, Daimler tram at Cannstatt Volksfest, 1887; below right, Daimler truck 1898. (Photo: Mercedes-Benz)

Filling stations fold as the gas gush turns to a trickle

Over 25,000 filling stations have shut down over the past 10 years, putting more than 150,000 people out of work.

Politicians are usually quick to act, if only to clamour for government assistance, when firms of any size cease trading.

But none of them have paid any serious attention to the plight of filling stations, says Heinrich Brandes, from Cologne.

He should know, as president of the Association of Filling Station and Garage Proprietors.

He represents a business that has been hit harder than many another by the structural change that has beset the Germany economy.

Back in the 1960s filling station owners and operators felt their future was assured. More and more people bought cars of their own.

Oil companies took seriously their obligation to ensure a regular supply of motor fuel all over the country.

At the height of the boom over 46,000 filling stations were in busines in the Federal Republic of Germany. Then came the first round of oil price rises, and oil companies started economising.

The fiercer the competition grew, the more intensive efforts to stem the tide became. One way of cutting costs was to reduce expenditure on distribution.

Decline of the filling station

Number of stations: Jan. 1979 28,543; 80 27,026; 81 25,879; 82 24,597; 83 22,951; Dec. 1983 20,900

Turnover in 1983:
Benzine: 23 million tons
Diesel: 14 million tons

Other sales (Turnover in DM billion): Car accessories 1.45; Non-motoring items 1.20; Servicing 1.25

Source: BTG

Spokesmen for the trade readily admit that the oil companies have achieved their objectives in this respect, but only by sending thousands of small firms to the wall.

Filling station proprietors complain in particular that changes were brought about without any attempt to coordinate matters with them.

The sole consideration has been the oil companies' requirements. Garage-owners have usually had to do whatever they were told by the companies.

The size of their filling stations left them with little alternative as a rule, while operators find it increasingly difficult to start from scratch.

Often they have no option but to go "independent," but that merely makes competition even fiercer and further reduces profit margins.

Last year the remaining 20,900 filling stations sold 23 million tons of motor fuel, plus DM2.65bn in sales of spare parts or other merchandise and DM1.25bn for services.

The profit margin on a litre of fuel is only a few pfennigs, meaning as a rule that over four million litres a year have to be sold before the owner or operator can be sure of making a profit.

But over half the country's filling stations total annual sales of less than 1.8 million litres. They can only make ends meet by employing members of the family virtually free of charge and by the owner working overtime that isn't mentioned in the books.

"We have no choice but to work a 70-hour week," Herr Brandes says, "if we are to stay in business." Filling station owner have little sympathy with the trade unions' campaign for a 35-hour week!

He quotes a simple equation to show how the price fluctuation in recent years has affected garage proprietors. Prices have gone up (or down) every four days on average.

"As a result," Herr Brandes says, "we have spent more time up stepladders changing our prices than we have at the till." The vagaries of fuel prices have not boosted customer confidence in any way. Besides, the changes have cost filling stations money.

With between 80 and 90 price changes annually the new price boards are estimated to cost roughly DM4,000 a year.

That alone totals extra expenditure amounting to DM60m a year for the trade as a whole. It may not have had to be paid in cash, but it still forms part of the cost equation.

Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt

The trade takes an extremely sceptical view of the future at the moment. In the years ahead fuel turnover is expected to decline further as new cars use less and less petrol.

Average annual mileage is likely to decline too, so filling stations are sure to report lower turnover.

By the end of the decade there will only be 17,000 to 18,000 filling stations left. In built-up areas motorists will hardly be affected, but in the country it will be another matter.

In rural areas it will no longer be possible to rule out supply problems.

Ursula Hohmeyer

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 18 March 1984)

LITERATURE

Uwe Johnson: no writer related more clearly to Germany today

Novelist Uwe Johnson's tetralogy *Jahrestage*, the final volume of which he published last autumn, ended in a minor key.

It comprises nearly 2,000 pages chronicling half a century, the 20th. The tetralogy was in many respects an extension of his other novels, not to say their sum total and result.

So his main work basically stood for his entire output in ending on what was a joyless, hopeless, no-future note.

He was found dead on 13 March in his Sheerness, England, home in the Thames estuary by his charlady. He had died of a heart attack.

He was last in Cologne last November to receive the city's literary award. Those who saw him at the award ceremony in the Rathaus or at a reading the next day will not need telling he was sick.

He survived his final novel by less than six months. It had taken him over a decade to write.

It would be reducing Johnson the man to Johnson the writer to take this as meaning his life had been fulfilled and exhausted in every sense of the word.

He still had plans. He had half-completed a further book about his fictional family, the Cresspahls, going back to the year 1888. Besides, he was only 49. He would have been 50 on 20 July.

Recalled fascism

Uwe Johnson was born in Cammin, Mecklenburg, in 1934. He consciously recalled German fascism and quoted from memory the May in which the war ended:

"Children for the time being have been freed from Adolf Hitler. Not so adults. They merely refer to something having collapsed.

"That is what they call it: the collapse. Whereas children have learnt from playing cowboys and Indians or hide and seek that they have lost and the game is over."

If there was any event that, again an abbreviation, might be described as the event of his life, then it was the Second World War, its consequences and what it presupposed.

First, the consequences. The events in his first novel, *Mutmaßungen über Jakob*, 1959, begin, when ordered chrono-

Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger

logically, with the trek of war's end refugees from the East.

Johnson consistently objected to the epithet "novelist of divided Germany," but he never succeeded in shaking it off.

He interpreted it as an undesirable and unfriendly reminder that he was a specialist and the sole writer to plough this particular furrow.

His objections were to no avail. He was stuck with this pigeonhole and it seems sure to be his for good.

Yet the division of Germany is merely a special aspect of realignment in Europe as a whole, and that, together with the circumstances that led up to it, will be the subject of any realist who looks further afield than the parish pump.

He dealt with his subject matter as "the result of a biography," as "material," and not as a free choice.

Hermann Kant and Siegfried Lenz, Günter Grass and Heinrich Böll also deal with the post-war era, but none relate so clearly and persistently to present-day Germany as he did.

In his second published novel, *Das dritte Buch über Achim*, 1961, the narrator, Karsch, refers to "the border: the difference: the distance" as the subject of the book.

It was more than just a topic that preoccupied Karsch as a journalist.

This it was that the crucial political events in divided Europe repeatedly featured as the subject matter of his novels.

In *Mußmaßungen über Jakob* it was the Suez crisis and the Hungarian uprising of 1956. In *Das dritte Buch über Achim* it was the part Achim, a well-known racing cyclist, is said to have played in the 1953 popular uprising in East Germany.

Zwei Ansichten, 1965, was a variation on the Romeo and Juliet theme in connection with the Berlin Wall.

Jahrestage comes to an inevitable conclusion on the day Russian tanks invaded Czechoslovakia in 1968.

Where such a closely-meshed network of connections links the period dealt with in a novel with current events that took place in fact, not fiction, one is bound to suppose the link was artistically intended.

Johnson strongly denied this was the case with *Jahrestage*. The day on which the tetralogy begins and ends was, he claimed, pure coincidence.

Günter Grass knew him as a person and a friend, and as president of the Berlin Academy of Arts, of which Johnson was vice-president for a while.

In his obituary Grass referred to the "difficult friendship" he and Johnson had shared. it had not been easy. Johnson had lived "dangerously and intensely."

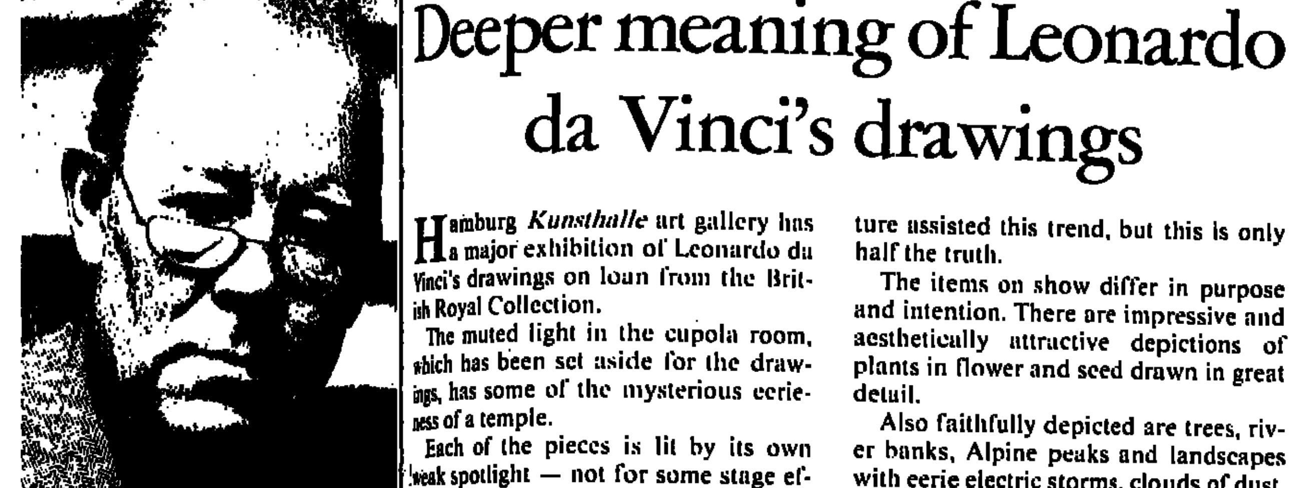
Craftsmanship

Yet he made a name for himself more by the disciplined craftsmanship of his writing.

Anyone who knew Johnson will agree he could be difficult to deal with, unfair and insulting. But that merely concealed the extent to which he himself was vulnerable.

He probably never did recover from the most serious upset that rocked his own life. In June 1975, he later revealed, he was told that his wife Elisabeth had for years been an agent for East Bloc intelligence services.

She had betrayed him in more than the middle-class moral sense of the term. We may never know how much truth there was in this accusation, but it had an undeniable effect on him.



Uwe Johnson . . . lived intensely.

(Photo: Brigitte Fried

He had a heart attack and suffered from serious bouts of depression.

In his writer's notebook *Begleitumstände* Johnson described what a painful experience the writer's block was for him.

It immobilised him for years, but he finally beat it to complete the *Jahrestage* tetralogy for his heroine Gesine Cresspahl.

"If it really matters to you, you will start at the age of 44 to learn how to 'write' again," he explained.

"You may start with two lines a day or five lines a week, but in three months you will have completed 17 pages."

No-one knows for sure how hurt he was by the critics who panned his "frightfully sluggish style" of writing. He certainly didn't see writing as a bit of rhetoric, providing fine-sounding words for "what he actually meant."

He saw writing as a way of arriving at the truth. The reader was to feel: "That's what life is like." But Johnson wasn't the fatalist some critics made him out to be.

The next step in reading, as he saw it, was to ask: "But do we want to live like that?" He clearly didn't, and in the end he was no longer able to do so.

Michael Bengel

(Kölner Stadt-Anzeiger, 14 March 1984)

Author's body discovered

Süddeutsche Zeitung

Writer Uwe Johnson, who was found dead in his home in Sheerness, near London, on 13 March, died of a heart attack on 23 February, according to the autopsy.

Suhrkamp, his Frankfurt publishers, say the British authorities are satisfied he died a natural death.

dpa

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 19 March 1984)

Reading books, the vanishing sense of adventure

Someone I know points with pride to his shelves packed with books and says how satisfying it is to have such a large library.

"But," he adds with a note of sadness, "my sons go nowhere near it. Young people nowadays seldom do any reading.

"They would sooner listen to pop music or go to the disco. At the best of times all they can be expected to do is watch TV."

People who grew up before the days of TV and owe decisive educational influences to the written word will be tempted to share this pessimistic viewpoint.

Reading a book used to be an adventure. Are we losing this sense of adventure? Do children today no longer derive pleasure from illicitly reading a tale such as *Emil and the Detectives* under the cover of a maths textbook?

Children are surprised to learn that *Der Stechlin* or *Die Buddenbrooks* are



not just TV serials but also novels on their parents' bookshelves.

The decline of the reading habit is lamented by German literature dons who say their students nowadays see literature merely as something they have to study to pass their exams.

"Do I have to read the whole book, prof? Or will the first few chapters do?" This student query is felt to be typical.

These may be subjective impressions, although friends and acquaintances seem to share them, so is it fair to generalise?

Do young people really read less? Are not older people increasingly succumbing to the fascination of the electronic media? Is TV really the book's worst enemy?

Market research has fortunately looked into the subject and shown there is no need to be pessimistic, but none to be wildly optimistic either.

The written word, in the form of books, newspapers and magazines, is marking time, whereas radio and TV are still gaining ground.

They are profiting most from the fact that people have more and more spare time, 60 per cent more than in the 1950s.

This extra spare toime is not used entirely for educational or further education purposes. People are also more bored than they used to be.

People who are bored tend to be more passive, melancholic even, and switching on the TV set is less trouble than reaching for a book.

Watching TV is a passive pastime. Reading presupposes activity. "Direct communication by sound and screen," says Frau Noelle-Neumann of the Allensbach opinion poll, "is effortless because it is immediately understood. Reading requires an intermediate step."

First reading then taking in what you have read is indeed work, although the habitual reader might not see it that way.

Readers are active people and that's why they are much more infrequently bored than non-readers.

Continued on page 11

EXHIBITIONS

Deeper meaning of Leonardo da Vinci's drawings

Hamburg *Kunsthalle* art gallery has a major exhibition of Leonardo da Vinci's drawings on loan from the British Royal Collection.

The muted light in the cupola room, which has been set aside for the drawings, has some of the mysterious eerieness of a temple.

Each of the pieces is lit by its own weak spotlight — not for some stage effect but because of the sensitivity of the works. Some of the delicate lines have already faded, and visitors are well advised to come equipped with a magnifying glass.

This is the second exhibition of Leonardo da Vinci's works. Four years ago his anatomical studies, also on loan from the Royal Collection, were exhibited.

The Renaissance that began around the middle of the 15th century ushered in the modern era. From then on, life and the arts were dominated by rationalism and the natural sciences.

Da Vinci's close observations of nature assisted this trend, but this is only half the truth.

The items on show differ in purpose and intention. There are impressive and aesthetically attractive depictions of plants in flower and seed drawn in great detail.

Also faithfully depicted are trees, river banks, Alpine peaks and landscapes with eerie electric storms, clouds of dust, gusts of wind and impending floods.

To enable him to capture dynamic processes like the flow of water or the whirling of the wind he set up special experiments.

But what he evidently wanted was not mere pictorial description. There is a deeper meaning to the sketches that serve as studies for his dynamic and indeed explosive drawings that have often been interpreted as visions of Armageddon or the Flood.

What is this deeper meaning? The German Leonardo researcher Alexander Perrig demonstrates in an essay added to the catalogue as a supplement that da Vinci's view of nature did not simply happen so that the new age could begin.

The morphological and geological items on antiquity's and the Middle Ages' views on the origins and the decline of earth were studies for some of the background landscapes of his famous paintings.

Water, over which God's creative spirit wafted even before the Creation, plays a major role here.



Da Vinci drawings: left, old man resting; right, sketches and notes.

(Photo: Catalogue)

The human body was seen as resembling the body of earth with the same system of blood vessels and circulation.

Whenever one of these blood vessels ruptured, a river was born.

The flood drawings therefore simply represent the "birth of a river" with all its catastrophic consequences for life on earth, according to Perrig.

The "Visions" series therefore derives its deeper meaning not from modern natural science but from the desire pictorially to depict something that had been regarded as true through the ages.

Had Leonardo known the true origins of major rivers, we would now have no "Virgin of the Rocks," no "Mona Lisa" and no "Virgin and Child with St Anne" but something akin to what Perrig calls a "*weltanschauung* collapse."

And we would certainly not have the awesome drawings on the subject of the birth of the river in which everything is in motion and nothing static.

The world as a dynamic structure — is it this that we see in Leonardo's sketches?

It would be a very modern idea ideed and yet a very old one which Heraclitus summed up in two terse words: *panta rhei*, everything flows.

In any event, Leonardo's drawings go back in time and they anticipate. It is this that makes them so fascinating. After all, lesser men could also draw.

Rolf Gaska

(Kieler Nachrichten, 15 March 1984)

Continued from page 10

The reading habit is gained young. People who enjoy reading are usually keen readers as youngsters and don't give up the habit in old age.

So those who have visions of all the things they are going to do once they retire may be deceiving themselves. The keen reader will always find time to read a book, going without TV if need be.

The public can be divided into two groups: those who watch TV a lot and don't do much reading, and those who get in less viewing than the average because they enjoy reading a book.

So the electronic media are not in direct competition with reading. In recent years a firm category of regular readers has emerged.

They make up between 25 and 30 per cent of the population and are not distracted from reading by technical innovations of any kind.

It would be stretching a point to refer to them as an elite, but it is certainly true to say that books make a contribution toward communication for which TV can never stand substitute.

Reading continued to be a habit that is characteristic of someone who decides for himself what he wants to make of his life.

So it is sad indeed that young people in particular seem to be less keen on reading, and it is definitely true that young people read fewer newspapers than adults.

They are even reported to have a growing disinclination even to look at a newspaper.

But as they are watching less TV and spending more time playing electronic games these days, other factors than a mere decline in popularity of reading are evidently involved.

Research scientists are looking into the reasons right now. If what pessimists fear is borne out, there is a risk of valuable knowledge and education being forfeited.

Radio and TV are no substitute for reading. Electronic information has long been shown only to register as knowledge when combined with the written word.

Werner Birkenmaier

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 17 March 1984)

Revealing Dürer's insights into human nature

The Berlin *Kupferstichkabinett*, part of the Dahlem museum complex, has put Dürer's graphic works on show.

Of the 150 items, 122 are original drawings and watercolours. The rest are copies, some made by his pupils.

One of the most valuable features is the catalogue which the departing director of the *Kupferstichkabinett*, Fedja Anzelewsky, presented together with Hans Mielke after working on it for ten years.

Drawings in this context is a broad term that includes portraits, hasty sketches, carefully executed details, complete compositions of figures and space, of movement and rigidity, the artist's tribute to familiar and loved people and fleeting impressions.

There are even utilitarian sketches for decorative purposes because art did not stop short of everyday life for Dürer.

But as rich as the contents was Dürer's mastery of the use of the tools of his craft, including the finest of pens, brush, Indian ink, charcoal, etc. These are instruments of artistic expression that even modern technology has been unable to better.

The virtuosity with which he handled these instruments proves his universality, though this might be slightly lacking in the watercolours. They are mostly tinted drawings that do not make full use of the possibilities inherent in the brush.

People looking at Dürer's drawings cannot help but admire the mastery of his craft and his insights into human nature and everything that surrounded him.

He lent dignity and paid attention to everything, be it a picture frame or the wall of a house.

But his main interest centred on the human being.

There are two charcoal drawings on show that leave an indelible impression by conveying something of the relationship between the artist and his subject, bearing witness to his involvement.

In March 1514 he drew the first totally realistic portrait in the history of art: his 63-year-old mother only a few weeks before her death. The portrait shows a familiar person, marked and drained by life to the point of ugliness, the eyes seemingly already directed to another world — a monument to dignity without pathos.

A year later, Dürer lovingly drew the portrait of a young girl — judging by the cast of her eyes, evidently part of his mother's family — the artistic epitome of gentle and, almost, still dormant youth.

There is a similarity in the expression of the eyes: the mother looking to the next world and the girl to a dream in this one.

These two portraits alone make a visit worth while.

Gabriele Nicol

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 17 March 1984)



Two Dürer portraits: of a young girl (left) and of his mother.

(Photo: Catalogue)

■ THE ENVIRONMENT

Pollution or not, lichen sneaks back on to Munich city trees

DIE ZEIT

In spite of all the talk about atmospheric pollution, lichen, which is extremely sensitive to toxins, is flourishing again in Munich.

Near the Stachus, a city-centre intersection reputedly the busiest in Germany, lichen has returned to the bark of ash and linden trees.

Over a century ago sulphur dioxide-polluted city air banished lichen from the centre of the Bavarian capital.

Now a walk round the city-centre parks, such as the Old Botanical Garden or the Hofgarten, make every lichenologist's heart miss a beat.

Otto Kandler of Munich University botany department and Josef Poelt, a lichen expert from Graz, Austria, have identified seven varieties in the Old Botanical Garden and nine in the Hofgarten.

Lichen is a sophisticated symbiosis of algae and fungi. The fungus, or mushroom, consists of a threadlike latticework that collects water and nutrient salts.

The green algae have the facility for photosynthesis that they need between them to provide food. Fossil finds show this partnership to have existed for at least 70 million years.

Lichen has not been fond of human company. Last century it vanished from particularly polluted areas where smoke poured from domestic chimneys and industrial smokestacks.

It dislikes the dust and lower humidity of urban air and has disappeared from cities as industrialisation progressed.Sulphur dioxide shares with cement dust the distinction of being the most intolerable human waste product as far as lichen is concerned.

Surveys in various cities, especially Paris and London, have repeatedly shown this to be the case.

The pull-out was soon noticed. As long ago as in 1892 a Munich amateur *botanist by the name of F. Arnold wrote* to the newly-founded Bavarian Botanical Association that:

"In the city centre, particularly the area that used to be within the city walls, lichen is no longer to be found."

He complained that lichenologists had paid little or no attention to lichen in the cities. So from 1890 to 1901 he kept an eye on what was left of lichen outside the city-centre area from which it had already vanished.

He took lichen samplers from the Siegestor, or Victory Tower, in Ludwigstrasse, from remnants of the city walls, from decaying bricks, from the boards of a barn near the Ludwigsbrücke and from many other locations he painstakingly noted.

That is why Munich is the only city with precise details of lichen growth at and before the turn of the century. Herr Arnold's samples can be seen to this day in the Bavarian State Herbarium and compared with today's lichen.

The lichen-free zone he complained of in 1891 grew sixfold in the half century that followed. He noted the disappearance of lichen in an area of eight square kilometres within the old city walls.

By 1956 lichen had vanished from an area of 52 square kilometres extending well beyond the inner ring road. The battlefield of 1891 had become a desert.

Botanists refer to areas where only a few species survive as a battlefield. Those that do survive are usually impeded in their growth or engaged in a struggle against poor living conditions.

Munich continued to grow. Its population increased from one million to 1.3m. Yet by 1968, when the next lichen survey was made, the desert had shrunk to a remarkable extent.

There was even an oasis of lichen in the middle of the desert. The trees surrounding the fairgrounds where the Oktoberfest is held showed signs of lichen on their northern sides (north is always damp).

What had happened? During the 1960s the sulphur dioxide count in the city declined drastically as heating switched from coal to natural gas, which is almost sulphur-free.

Besides, heating in much of Munich was piped in from power stations that replaced domestic central heating in individual cellars.

By means of a technically sophisticated coupling of power and heat the output of toxins was halved in comparison with conventional power stations.

This was because the same amount of fuel was used to generate electric power and heating, and combined power stations of this kind are much more efficient than the conventional variety.

When nuclear power is taken into account too, over half Munich's heating is from sources that impose very little burden on the atmosphere.

Other figures confirm the findings. In 1955 the average winter count of sulphur dioxide was between 0.5 and 1 milligram per cubic metre of Munich city air. The summer average was between 0.2 and 0.5mg.

By 1967 the annual mean sulphur dioxide count was down to 0.1mg, and since 1973 the annual average figure for the entire city had been 0.03mg (0.04mg in winter).

Nowhere in Munich is the average level higher than 0.5mg, which is the lethal ceiling as far as lichen is concerned.

Continued on page 14

Dangers of the political clout of conservation

STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG

Now the CSU has been persuaded by the SPD to include environmental protection in the provisions of the Bavarian constitution, the CDU in Bonn is under pressure from the FDP to include similar provisions in Basic Law, the 1949 Bonn constitution.

The Christian Democrats ought to refuse to be browbeaten.

Environmental protection has emerged as a political priority, largely due to the Greens. It is a topic politicians are keen to deal with because the action they wake will decide whether or not they are re-elected.

Pressure of critical public opinion is thus more important than the incorporation of environmental protection as a basic right or constitutional provision.

Environmental protection cannot be ensured by legal means. Political action is needed. privileged legal status for the environment would be bound to be at the expense of other social considerations.

Giving preference to one target over another would be sure to prove to the other's destriment. Social unrest would be the result.

If you're unemployed you are sure to feel environmental protection is a minor consideration. If you live next to a smoking factory chimney you are unlikely to attach immediate importance to the jobs it means.

If what you need is an apartment, then you aren't going to lose much sleep on how much money the government spends on education.

Once we start to incorporate social basic rights, such as the right to a clean environment, in the constitution, we run the risk of restricting political scope, says Judge Zeidler of the Constitutional Court.

Having specified a specific target it is easy to lose sight of the common good. Such provisions amount to little more than constitutional embellishments.

Legal specification of good politics that proves difficult to put into practice may easily lead to disappointment.

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 14 March 1984)

New system to purify ground water

DIE WELT

Ground water often needs to have surplus nitrogen removed before it can be drunk. A new biological purification process has been developed at Jülich nuclear research centre.

Scientists at the centre's biological engineering unit have devised a technique by which the water is filtered through a flat bed of gravel in which reeds, rushes and other water plants flourish.

The process makes no use whatever of chemicals and was tried out in three small pilot projects last year.

Initial findings have been so encouraging that Viersen, a local authority in the Rhineland, has submitted to the Bonn Research and Technology Ministry plans to try the technique out on a large scale.

The Ministry gave the go-ahead in January, so work is now in progress on testing the suitability of water plants and the gravel bed as filters.

Jülich bioengineers have been joined on the scientific side by Bochum University hydrogeologists.

The Jülich boffins will not only be working on developing the technique but also examining the metabolism of bacteria that are responsible for denitrification.

They have hitherto concentrated solely on the metabolism of anaerobic bacteria.

(Die Welt, 17 March 1984)

Baltic clean-up is slow going, but at least it is going

Lübecker Nachrichten

Elsewhere atmospheric pollution is lamented; in Baltic countries action is taken. It has been taken for 10 years, and not just since environmental protection has been in the news.

The Helsinki Convention, by the terms of which Baltic countries agreed to joint moves to cleanse the Baltic and keep it clean, has been in force for a decade.

It is an anniversary worth celebrating. What has been accomplished so far is well worth mentioning. Toxins such as mercury, DDT and PCB are no longer the problem in the Baltic they still are in other parts of the world.

The seven countries that signed the convention have naturally not by any means solved all the environmental problems faced.

Overfertilisation of the Baltic with phosphates and nitrogen is so extensive that there is a serious risk of the "sea of peace" becoming a dead sea before long.

Further action is urgently needed, and in view of this need what the representatives of the signatories agreed at the anniversary gathering in Helsinki was not spectacular.

All they managed was to agree to draw up binding toxin limits for effluent pumped into the Baltic within the next five years.

That sounded very much like the entire issue was being shelved. But it is too much to expect an international body like the Baltic maritime environment commission to come up with swift results.

Anyone who is impatient with the commission would do well to remember how long the European Community takes to arrive at decisions.

The Common Market, unlike the Helsinki convention, consists solely of members with similar social systems, which ought to make it easier to reach agreement.

So although it may be slow going, the Baltic countries are heading in the right direction. This is confirmed by a wide range of similar moves now being undertaken to cleanse the North Sea.

In the North Sea attempts are under way to repeat what has already achieved results in countries bordering on the Baltic.

Heiko Schlottke

(Lübecker Nachrichten, 17 March 1984)

■ EDUCATION

Bonn gingers up campaign to step up school computer courses

The Bonn Research Ministry has thrown its weight behind a campaign to increase computer tuition in schools.

Wilhelm Ebert, head of the National Association of Teachers and president of the World Federation of Teacher Organisations, warns: "Schools no longer have the option of facing the challenge of the new media or not. They must face it."The media of our own day and age and of the future are a total challenge to our schools because their involvement in people's lives is total."

Seventy five per cent of Germany's secondary schools already have at least one computer with two to three screens and data banks, each costing more than DM10,000.

In fact, most of these schools have up to three computers, according to Friedrich Völkl of the Bavarian Education Ministry.

Secondary school students are even given separate marks for their computer performance in the subject "data processing" which is gaining in popularity.

The emphasis at the *Realschule* type of secondary school and at schools of commerce is not so much on theory as on the practical use of the computer geared directly to business needs such as book-keeping.

Bonn Research Minister Heinz Riesenhuber wants to enable teachers and students to pull all data processing stops "so that they can master the new technology rather than use ready-made programmes.".

Now German schools are beginning to chip in.

(Photo: Manfred Vollmer)

Riesenhuber's 13-year-old son, Max, served as an eye-opener for the minister. He had learned from a pen friend in the United States that computers are taken for granted there — not only at home with various computer games but as part of classroom work.

Max wanted to match his pen friend but his Frankfurt school could teach him nothing about computers. So he enrolled in an adult education course. He was the only youngster.

Many of his classmates have now done the same and are passing on what they have learned.

Riesenhuber's drive consists of several steps. A "computer foundation" is to be set up this spring to pave the computer's way into schools. The foundation will include teachers' associations and computer firms of all sizes.

A mammoth congress to be held. It is intended as a mart of possibilities where *firms can pledge training courses* for teachers, as is already being provided by Siemens.

They can also pledge to donate a computer if the education authorities agree. The congress will also be attended by representatives of industry and chambers of commerce, the Association of Electronic Data Processing Centres and the Mathematical Society.

Riesenhuber has written to the Association of German Engineers (more than 3,000 members) urging it to "help the teachers."

The idea is for experts to visit schools and offer their services and attend parent-teacher meetings in a bid to dispel reservations.

"It's not so much the students but the teachers who need a push in the right direction," says Alfred Markwart of the Munich School and Business Study Circle. The Circle has rallied 30 training firms that provide theoretical and practical instruction.

Ebert says about this "silent revolution": "Technical means of communication can already take over more than half the teaching at school. The school as an institution to convey knowledge has become replaceable."

Society must realise that the computer is more "capable of conveying knowledge than the teacher."

Yet "what generally goes under the label of education and upbringing, a process in which a personality is formed and develops, cannot be done by computer."

This means that not a single teacher will be made redundant by a machine. But he will be relieved of much of the day-to-day drudgery and be able to devote himself to more creative tasks for the benefit of his students.

Research Minister Riesenhuber is already thinking of the next step: "The USA and Japan already have computers *in kindergartens* . . :"

(Deutsches Allgemeines Sonntagsblatt, 11 March 1984)

Unpopular idea stirs up a hornet's nest

FDP leader Hans-Dietrich Genscher's persistent demands for elite universities have caused some annoyance, but they have not fallen on deaf ears.

The CDU Economic Affairs Council has now come up with a blueprint for the re-introduction of university fees, which is also unlikely to prove particularly popular.

What is behind it all?

"Education for all," the optimistic watchword of a society bent on progress, is losing its impetus in the face of hard financial facts.

At a time when costs can no longer be disregarded, market economists with their cost-benefit analyses are gaining the upper hand.

The idea of running universities along the lines of a commercial enterprise is not quite new. Some years ago, the then chancellor, Helmut Schmidt, urged university rectors to do exactly that.

And the austerity of recent months has resulted in much deadwood being cut away — as for instance in university libraries.

But the CDU Economic Affairs Council wants more than just saving money. It wants students to have a stake in the game that will mould their destinies, something that was done away with by state decree in the 1960s.

This would hit students, professors and the presumably autonomous "institution university" equally hard.

Unlike Genscher, the Council does not speak of elites but of independence, performance and streamlining. It wants to do away with the ossification of institutions that have wound up in a rut due to routine.

What the experts have in mind is fruitful competition among universities with private institutions in the vanguard. They are even going so far as to contemplate privatising state universities.

Even these still fragmentary ideas indicate a tougher climate in which the student will have to foot his own bill and therefore cut his coat according to his cloth when it comes to the duration of his studies.

Professors are also to be stripped of some of their privileges: They would no longer be civil servants assured of a job for life but would have to compete and prove their effectiveness.

This would come very close to the much maligned private University of Witten/Herdecke. Its board chairman, Dr Konrad Schily, once described the situation at state universities where a professor appointed for life uses most of his time to pursue his private inclinations or sidelines as intolerable.

Witten/Herdecke (whose students, incidentally, pay no fees) is likely to occupy educational planners for some time. It practises what the CDU Economic Affairs Council dreams of: innovativeness.

To realise this in our present universities would mean overcoming public reservations about leaving a well-trodden path.

Helmut Möller

(Rheinische Post, 16 March 1984)

■ MEDICINE

Doubts over claims for new arteriosclerosis treatment

Christ und Welt
Rheinischer Merkur

A German group is circulating information which claims that three million Americans are being treated for arteriosclerosis with a substance called chelate.

The German Society for Chelate Therapy claims that 2,000 American doctors are using the substance.

However, there are doubts that claims about the treatment and the cost of it can be justified.

The chemical name of chelate is edetic (ethylenediaminetetraacetic) acid or EDTA. The formula is relatively uncomplicated and could probably easily be made up by a chemist working in his basement laboratory.

EDTA was invented by the German IG Farben Corp. for the treatment of textile fibres.

The substance has been on the German pharmaceuticals list, the so-called Red List, for years under the label "Standard Infusion and Injection Solution" with many applications.

It is generally assumed that EDTA has no harmful side effects, at least in the short term. But what about the legal obligation of manufacturers to prove the effectiveness of a drug?

This is normally done by a double *blind test. But the Society provides very* little information about any kind of successful testing.

Instead, the prospectus is brimful of what would seem tempting offers. It claims effectiveness with all types of arteriosclerosis, angina pectoris and similar disorders.

Chelate is also supposed to reduce high blood pressure, neutralise contamination with heavy metals and combat calcium deposits in the body.

It also claimed to be suitable for the treatment of diabetes, lung emphysema and arthritis. It allegedly prevents heart attacks and other infarctions and revitalises the entire system.

It sounds far-fetched, so we telephoned the president of the new Chelate Society, Dr Helmut Brommer.

He said he was convinced of the effectiveness of the drug.

When asked for examples, he named a patient with severe arteriosclerosis of the leg who was unable to walk more than 100 metres painfree before being treated with it.

After the therapy, the man could walk four kilometres and still feel no pain.

Dr Brommer refused, however, to publicise the case, saying: "I'm no scientist."

According to the *Medical Tribune*, in*stitutions specialising in chelate treat*ment charge excessive prices of between DM6,000 and DM8,000 for 25 injections that are only worth between DM150 and DM200.

When told this, Dr Brommer said that the substance used in the treatment was not the same as the Red List's EDTA but an improved solution enriched with additives. He did not say what the solution consisted of.

He also pointed out that many special services came with the treatment, among them chemical analyses, electrocardiograms, X-rays, etc. He also mentioned the need for specially trained nurses.

What it boils down to is that a clinic that "revitalises" and "activates" its patients with EDTA regards the chelate only as the potatoes on the plate. What makes the treatment expensive is the sauces and salads.

His arguments were not convincing. The laboratory tests and the electrocardiograms could just as easily be made by the patient's own doctor.

It is also hard to understand what special training is needed for nurses looking after patients who are receiving injections.

And since the prospectus claims that treatment can also be done on an outpatient basis, an injection centre with an attached guest house would be enough.

Those who suffer from severe arteriosclerosis, the most frequent disorder and cause of death in Germany and who want to undergo chelate treatment are bound to be modest in their demands. All they want from their doctor is help.

Opinion surveys among doctors leave it open whether chelate really does what its protagonists claim.

Professor Schettler of Heidelberg has launched a survey of the effects of chelate on arteriosclerosis.

Asked about it, he said that he would not allow himself to be injected with the drug.

Some specialists admit to the possibility of occasional successes while others speak of "biochemical nonsense".

The only certainty is that some doctors have turned a therapy that might have a temporarily beneficial effect on some patients into a bonanza.

Richard Kaufmann

(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt, 9 march 1984)

Lichen returns

Continued from page 12

Occasional peaks 10 times higher ... dently have no effect.

In Greater London, where city-ce... sulphur dioxide has been reduced ... 0.1mg as a result of anti-smog moves, ... chen has yet to return closer to the c... centre than the outer suburbs.

Crustaceous lichen is felt to be ... hardiest variety, usually being the las... disappear from a city. Yet in Mu... even more sensitive varieties, such a... leaf and shrub lichen, have returned.

They grow on the bark of freestand... linden and ash trees in the Old Bota... cal Garden and the Hofgarten. As lo... of bark rich in nutrient they seem to ... lish the fertiliser effect of nitrous ox... in the city air.

The returnees have one feature i... common: they reproduce by means ... minute particles of lichen that are blo... to a fresh location by the wind and the... take root.

Lichen varieties that are unable to ... this can only grow when the right alg... team up with the fungus spore and ... into partnership.

The Munich lichen shows that na... is quick to react to environmental ... provements. Maybe the forests will ... turn to normal once atmospheric pol... tion has been dealt with.

Annelies Furtmayr-Schol...

(Die Zeit, 9 March ...)

Germany a belated competitor in genetic engineering stakes

Germany is getting into the genetic engineering industry although far too late.

New technologies permit the manipulation of the genetic material of bacteria to the point where it can be used for the production of insulin, growth hormones, interferon and hepatitis serum.

The pharmacetical industry took a long time to recognise the significance of genetic engineering, so scientists took matters into their own hands and set up companies complete with marketing organisations.

Germany has now also recognised the importance of genetic engineering, though several years too late. And even though the first patents for genetically engineered drugs are now being registered, it will be hard to close the know-how gap.

The recently reported biogenetic marriage of convenience between a firm named. Biogen, which scientists established in 1978, and the Rentschler pharmaceutical company in Laupheim has caused a minor sensation.

Biogen, which has offices in Geneva,

DIE WELT

Cambridge and Massachusetts, has already made a name for itself among experts.

The company has not only successfully produced various types of interferon, but has also genetically synthesised growth hormones, hepatitis B serums and interlemkin 2, a drug used to combat inflammation.

But Biogen has no monopoly in this profitable field. There are many other scientists and a few pharmaceutical companies competing

The cooperation agreement between Biogen and Rentschler makes sense. Rentschler has a world reputation as the manufacturer of an interferon preparation that has been used for the treatm... of potentially fatal virus infections.

There are three groups of interfe... each with different properties.

Interferons are produced by the h... man body to ward off virus infection...

Certain types of interferon are s... to cure cancer but this has not yet be... substantiated.

Even so, there are some types of c... cer where interferon is almost certa... effective. They are the papilloma vi... that affect ear, nose and throat.

Though much less spectacular, t... possible effects of interferon on c... are of major importance for the w... being of a nation.

There is no irrefutable evidence t... the drug actually prevents colds. But i... does, it would be of major significa... to national economies.

Jochen Aumi...

(Die Welt, 15 march ...)

■ SPORT

Munich soccer star accepts big offer to play in Italy

Karl-Heinz Rummenigge, the goal-scoring captain of Bayern Munich and Germany, is to play for the Italian soccer club Inter Milan next season. The transfer fee, the highest ever in German soccer, is between DM8m and DM10m. Rummenigge, 28, earns an estimated DM1.6m a year with Bayern, including sponsorship and other payments. This will rise to about DM2m with Inter Milan.

The news that Karl-Heinz Rummenigge had signed for Inter Milan ought to have prompted an uproar among football and club officials, team managers and coaches and fellow-players.

One can imagine them saying don't let Rummenigge quit Bundesliga soccer and come to terms with a foreign club!

Isn't German soccer poor in personalities as it is? Aren't the steadily declining band of spectators over the past six seasons sufficient warning?

Twenty years ago there would have been more than an uproar. It would have been an outcry of emotion and appeals to persuade him to stay in Germany.

There would have been appeals to his conscience, pathetic reminders of his patriotic duty, his German fans and the old country.

There would also have been financial incentives to try and make him reconsider. That was certainly what happened when Uwe Seeler of Hamburg and Germany looked like going further afield.

Others were unable to resist the temptation despite the hue and cry over their decision to leave. They included Günter Netzer and Franz Beckenbauer.

By the time Uli Stielike, Paul Breitner, Bernd Schuster and Hans Müller signed for clubs in other European countries people had grown accustomed to the idea.

They were professional soccer players, and career motives understandably came first, which doubtless partly explained why they didn't only have admiring fans.

Yet Rummenigge seemed, in terms of his popularity and character, to have more in common with folk heroes such as Fritz Walter and Uwe Seeler.

He at least didn't seem to be concerned mainly with filthy lucre. After all, as George Bernard Shaw put it, money has little value for someone who has more than enough of it.

But Shaw knew nothing about the mentality of today's soccer pros. They seem to have more in common with Schopenhauer, who said money was like sea water; the more of it you drank, the thirstier you grew.

One is inclined to believe Rummenigge when he says that the money interests him less than the challenge of first division Italian soccer.

He may well have been motivated by a combination of the spirit of adventure and the feeling that it was now or never: star-studded Italian soccer or ending his playing days in the Bundesliga.

With few exceptions the world's finest soccer players face each other week by week in the Italian league, men such as Zico and Falcao from Brazil or Platini from France.

They were all persuaded to sign for Italian clubs by gigantic transfer fees. Clubs in the Italian league have run up the highest debts in Europe in their bid to keep up with the field.

The general feeling has been one of understanding for Rummenigge's position, doubtless due to the enormous sums of money involved.

They are a kind of hush money, dealing a knockout blow to the emotions and making common sense come to the fore.

Can you blame a soccer star who will be 29 this year for taking up what may be his last chance of earning between DM1.4m and DM2m a year?

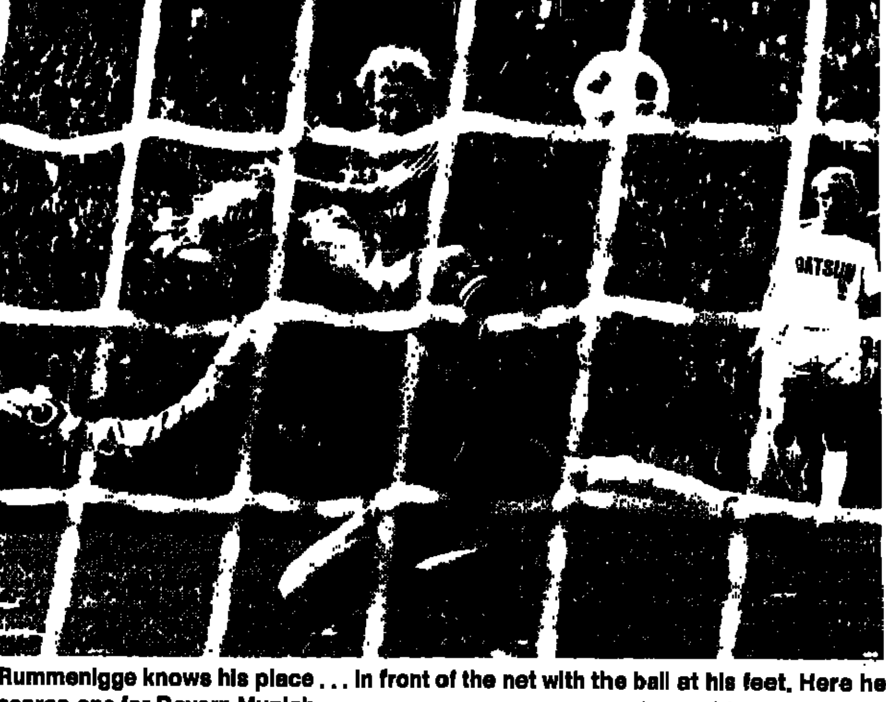
The Italian FA is on the point of banning foreign transfers. The ban will be imposed this June and last until at least 1986.

Would it not be unreasonable of Bayern Munich to turn down a transfer fee of between DM8m and DM10m?

If Rummenigge were to end his playing days in Munich in a few years' time he would have given the club and his fans a great deal of pleasure but he wouldn't be worth a cent in transfer fees.

Soccer no longer seems to be a sport in which there is room for sentiment, and Bayern Munich, who have often been unscrupulous in their staffing policies, have paved the way for this trend.

If egoism were a punishable offence, Bayern's manager Uli Hoeness ought long since to have been sentenced to cleaning boots for a small-town amateur club for life.



Rummenigge knows his place ... In front of the net with the ball at his feet. Here he scores one for Bayern Munich. (Photo: Horstmüller)

This egoism is concerned less with soccer as a spectator sport than with club finances.

Bayern will net a handsome profit from the transfer and be on the lookout, with a fat cheque book, for players to take his place they can snap up from other Bundesliga clubs.

There can be no commiseration with the clubs in question, Bayern president Willi O. Hoffmann has said in connection with transfer talks for Lothar Matthäus of Mönchengladbach.

So there's no sympathy in the Bayern boardroom. It's all part of the business. Yet the Munich club ought to have realised that more and better competitors are good for business.

The 1977-78 season was the Bundesliga's best-ever for spectators. It was a season in which Cologne won the league championship ahead of Mönchengladbach and Hertha Berlin. Bayern came twelfth.

But the Bundesliga has not yet come round to this way of thinking. Otherwise Bayern's competitors might have chipped in to ensure that he stayed with the Munich club.

It wouldn't have been the first time. US soccer clubs clubbed together years ago to buy Pele from Brazil to give association football in the United States greater glamour.

Bundesliga clubs might even have followed suit — for any other club than Bayern!

Oskar Schmidt

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 13 March 1984)

Club loses its battle of the bottle

Bundesliga soccer club Eintracht Brunswick have failed in their first court bid to change name to that of a well-known brand of liqueur.

Eintracht (roughly equivalent to United) is a common name for a club: uncontroversial, the kind of name German sports clubs have had for a century or more.

Brunswick's president and sponsor, liqueur manufacturer Günter Mast, wants the name changed to Jägermeister Brunswick.

Last autumn the annual meeting of the DFB, or German Football Association, voted against name changes that would totally commercialise a club in this way.

Brunswick appealed to a civil court against the change in DFB statutes. The sixth chamber of Frankfurt county court has dismissed the appeal.

The court largely followed the DFB's line of argument, which was that a name change of this kind would reduce the club to a mere object of economic interest to outsiders.

Adopting the name of a commercial company or product was, the court ruled, pure commercialisation, which the DFB, in the interest of other members, did not have to accept.

It was a case of whether the club was free to pick and choose or the association had an overall say, and the court felt the DFB was entitled to make binding decisions on matters relating to its statutory role.

Eintracht Brunswick was a member of the FA. That meant it had, as a matter of principle, to acknowledge and abide by the association's regulations and statutes.

For Herr Mast the ruling was still a success. The Frankfurt court might have ruled against the change of name, but at least it felt itself competent to handle the case.

That means he can take the case to a higher court, with the result that his company will continue to get free publicity.

But Herr Mast is out on a limb among Bundesliga soccer club presidents. Werder Bremen's Franz Böhmert welcomed the court's ruling:

"At the last meeting of club presidents a majority felt that allowing clubs to be named after products would not be good for German football.

"It is not, in my view, a matter of no concern to fans whether the visiting side are Hamburg SV or go by the name of BP Hamburg."

Günter Netzer, manager of the Hamburg club, was not surprised by the ruling: "Neither side will give way. Both will take the case through to the final court of appeal. And that could take years."

Netzer, capped many times for Germany in his playing day, says that although he is not on the best of terms with Mast he can understand his point of view:

"He is doing it all for his firm, and the publicity comes free of charge."

Before the court issued its ruling the Stuttgart president, Herr Meyer-Vorfelder, said VFB Stuttgart were not going to sell out to anyone merely because it happened to suit some captain of industry or other.

Arno Eschler represents a special case. His club, Bayer Uerdingen, have always (since 1905) been named after the chemicals company.

"Clubs," he says, "must first and foremost keep an eye on their image and pay no attention to outside business interests.

"Outsiders must only be allowed to exert influence within strict limits and with the best interests of football in mind."

Jürgen Schwericke of Bayer Leverkusen,

Jürgen Schwericke of Bayer Leverkusen, also named after the chemicals company, points out that his club has been known as Bayer Leverkusen since 1904.

"Bayer Leverkusen and Jägermeister Brunswick are as like as apples and pears, he says. "They simply don't grow on the same tree."

A few weeks ago I FC Cologne were in the news as contemplating a change of name to Phantasieland Cologne, after a local Disneyland-style amusement park.

"But that," says Cologne's president, Peteer Weiand, "would not have had anything like the same effect as Jägermeister Brunswick.

"Out of consideration for young people sports clubs ought never to stand for an alcoholic drink."

Weiand recalled the plight of Westfalia Herne, which had been closely associated with a local oil company and suddenly faced disaster when the company crashed. *dpa*

(Frankfurter Neue Presse, 8 March 1984)